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Ian Katz meets the woman who saved the New Yorker

Queen Tina



John Richardson's new biography

Picasso's search for a wife



Society

Self defence on two wheels

G2 page 8/9

Howard opts for the quick fix

Plans to protect victims dropped at last minute

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE Government will today announce a massive extension of its "prison works" policy of jailing more criminals for longer...

Crime bill

- What's in: Minimum three years for repeat burglars, Minimum seven years for repeat drug dealers, Automatic life sentences for repeat serious sex and violent offenders...



term than a first-time rapist would lead to all other sentences being increased. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the retired Lord Chief Justice, the retired Lord Chief Justice, senior judges and criminologists have all warned that Mr Howard's American-style proposals are based on "flimsy and dubious evidence"...



Women jailed for contempt freed

Sarah Holt and Sophie Bird, two young women who walked free from the Court of Appeal yesterday after judges reduced their prison sentences for refusing to testify against a violent and dangerous man whom they both feared...

Quit or risk revolt, former top aide warns Yeltsin

Ailing president controlled by daughter says ex-bodyguard

ALEXANDER Kozhakov, the Russian president's former bodyguard, yesterday said Boris Yeltsin was not fit to govern and should hand over power to his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, or face a popular revolt against the clique of advisers around him...

David Hearst in Moscow

Gen Kozhakov: Keeper of the president's secrets

Gen Kozhakov is now campaigning with General Alexander Lebed, the security council chief who was sacked by Mr Yeltsin last week. He said Gen Lebed was a democrat who would bring law and order to Russia's streets...

Gen Kozhakov describes himself as an anti-Communist, but said: 'Half of the country are Communists... You can't make all of this disappear in two years... I agree our ideology is a non-Communist one, but you mustn't behave this way with the Communists. We had to meet Zyuganov.'

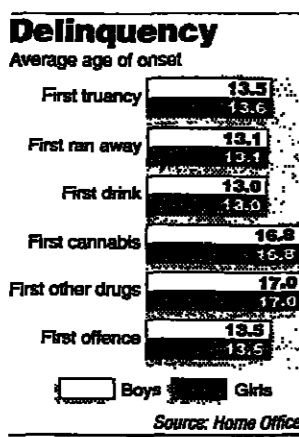
Gen Kozhakov produced his broadside on the day that Nikolai Yegorov, Mr Chubais' predecessor as chief of staff, also called for presidential elections, saying Mr Yeltsin was "far removed from reality. He does not know what is going on in Russia."

Table with 4 columns: Britain, World News, Finance, Sport. Includes a barcode and ISSN 0009-9478.

The Guardian International Umbrella advertisement. Includes an image of an umbrella and text: 'Protect yourself from the elements with the stylish Guardian International umbrella. This large blue and white golfing umbrella features a fox frame and wooden handle, £19.50. Price includes postage, packing and handling charges.'

There's nothing wrong with crusading for citizenship and civility, they say. It's just that no one

How the class of '96 switched off at

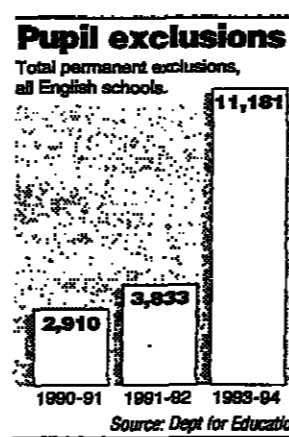


"It's hopeless now, cos there are so many supply teachers. I've got them for science, maths and English and they're the main subjects. They haven't a clue about what they're doing."

Mark Varley, a 14-year-old from The Ridings, Halifax



Mark Varley



Citizenship classes "would be a very good idea, but it's no good giving them to teenagers because they could already be corrupted by then."

Amarjit Bangar, a 17-year-old from Cranford school, Southall, west London



Amarjit Bangar

While political leaders were queuing up yesterday to endorse calls for a new moral framework, teenagers on half-term break from schools in Halifax, West Yorkshire, were describing how they manage to survive existing morality—or lack of it.

"I've just left Ridings school because I was bullied (set on) by 13 girls from a Holmeifield gang and beaten up. I hated the place," said Kelly Mallinson, aged 15, out with her sister and a friend.

It won't make her experiences any easier, but there have been worse examples of violence at the Ridings. The nastir came when a firework was blown up last week in the face of a long-serving technology teacher.

For the kids of the Ovenden estate, a 1990s hilltop construction that lies just adjacent to the school, the apparent collapse into quasi-anarchy has a simple and immediate cause. "It's all down to mixing two schools which always hated each other," Kelly explained.

From beneath his obligatory peak-at-the-back baseball cap, Mark Varley, 14, agreed. "Trouble began when they joined Ovenden and Holmeifield schools. Separate them again and we'd be on our way back to normal." The same story is told over and over again.

If the almost-tribal hatred between groups of teenagers may hold some of the clue to the Ridings' problems, it also helps explain why children at other schools are blissfully unaware of the supposed national slump into child-

hood immorality. Stephen Cassidy lives on the Ovenden estate and goes to school at Catholic High, a mile away.

So has the alleged moral decline touched him? "Has it heck. If you go into the dining room with trainers on at Catholic High, you're sent home."

Fellow Catholic High pupil Kenny Webster, 14, had a simple solution to the Ridings' dilemma. "If we lent them our head, Mr Savage, for a few weeks he'd soon sort the place out."

The Ridings provides one of

the sharpest examples in the country of a school in which the contract between adult and child appears to have broken down. The problem is that the same gulf of perception appears to be repeating itself in the search for a solution.

When the Class of Westminster talk in terms of "getting to grips with parenting" or "teaching decent citizenship values" as they did in buckets yesterday, the teenage Class of '96 switches off. To them, such talk is like a foreign language.

Take the idea of setting up an award for good citizenship, first floated by Frances Lawrence, the wife of the murdered headmaster, Philip, in her manifesto for a new morality launched on Monday. The award was embraced warmly by ministers, but how would teenagers in Devon greet it?

"A lot would not want something like that as it might reflect badly on their friends," said Tom Palmer, 16, from Ivybridge. Rachel, 13, expressed the same thought more bluntly—so bluntly, in-

deed, she has probably jeopardised any chance of earning a good citizen award: "If I was the only one to get one I would feel funny because my friends would take the piss."

It's not that teenagers have any resistance to the call for a new morality—far from it, most seemed to approve of imposing greater discipline—they just had little faith in adults' ability to pull it off.

In Southall, west London, pupils at the Cranford community school had doubts about the efficacy of the proposals. Satinder Chaggar, 17, ac-

cepted there was a discipline problem, particularly among boys, in her school, but added: "I don't think lessons on being a good citizen would make a difference—the kids who would probably need to go would not turn up."

An even bleaker view was given by Harvinder Sanghera, 15. "To be honest, people just go to school to muck about. I don't think anyone really goes to educate themselves. I don't see the point of citizenship lessons because no one listens."

The only Southall pupil to

Public urged to act as abuse 'harms 1 million children a year'

David Brindie, Social Services Correspondent

PEOPLE are too reluctant to intervene if they think children are being abused by parents or carers, the report of a national commission of inquiry into child abuse says today.

The Government should launch a public debate about what individuals should do if concerned about a child, the commission says. It proposes people should tackle a parent or carer in such circumstances "if they feel able".

The report, Childhood Matters, fuels the debate about public morality by arguing society needs to accept a common responsibility for child welfare and acknowledge it cannot be left to professionals. It suggests 1 million children are harmed every year in the UK.

However, there will be reservations about what the commission means by "abuse". It has adopted what it admits is a broad definition, that it is "anything which individuals, institutions or processes do, or fail to do, which directly or indirectly harms children, or damages their prospects of

Main points

- Designated government ministers for children.
- Independent children's commissioners.
- Joint planning of policies affecting children.
- Public education campaign on abuse.

safe and healthy development into adulthood".

A video made to promote the report depicts a woman shouting angrily at her young daughter for dropping

packets of biscuits in a supermarket, calling her clumsy and stupid.

Elaine Arnold, a social work lecturer at Sussex university and one of the 10-

strong commission, said she would consider such an incident "very much to be emotional abuse". One could easily infer that it was not the first time the mother had berated the child in ways damaging to her self-esteem.

Sir Roger Sims, Conservative MP for Chislehurst and another commission member, said the aim was not to encourage interfering "nosy parkers" but the vast majority of people would do nothing in such circumstances.

The commission, which sat part-time for two years, was set up by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty

to Children. The charity spent £305,000 on its work and research it commissioned.

Jim Harding, NSPCC director, described the report as a landmark in child protection which "must find its way into the hearts and minds of everyone in the country".

Eileen Hayes, the charity's child abuse prevention adviser, admitted it was difficult to define points at which people should intervene to stop suspected abuse. But she said: "A lot of it is about instinct—and it's better to be safe than sorry."

The commission has made 85 recommendations for help-

ing prevent child abuse, which, it says, harms 1 million children and costs an estimated £1 billion every year.

Junior health minister Simon Burns, who said the Government would look at the recommendations, dis-

agreed with the extension of the abuse definition. "The report is wrong to equate sensible discipline with child abuse," he said.

Childhood Matters; The Stationery Office, £40
Parents, p2 page 4

A virtuoso show of intimacy

First night

Judith Mackrell

Javier de Frutos

Purcell Room

JAVIER DE FRUTOS is a dancer famous for talking off his clothes—not because he is getting paid much money for it, or even because he has an outrageously hunky body to display. Simply he seems fascinated by the contradiction between public confrontation and personal vulnerability that occurs when he dances naked and alone on stage.

Sometimes he dances a shameless come-on, waggling his fingers archly over his buttocks and rubbing his foot insinuatingly along his leg. Sometimes he is gigglingly rude about it, shaking his bum at us like a naughty kid.

Sometimes he stalls us from seeing his nudity at all except as a sculptural play of mass and line. But most intriguingly, he demonstrates how even a naked body is clothed by its own habits of posture and gesture. By the end of the show we are watching him through the lens of his increasingly familiar personality. For the ultimate reason de Frutos likes to strip is that his pieces are about himself.

Transatlantic, set to Styne and Sondheim's songs for the

musical Gypsy, is a choreographic travelogue about his life in America, and about his aspirations to be a performer. To a brash opening number he flicks through a lightning display of histrionic gestures as if practising in front of a mirror.

Later he drives his body glumly through a speeded-up dance class, the timing so witty and accelerated and the moves so laconic we can only just spot what is going on.

But the work also evokes the alienation of being in a foreign land. Moving around a stage that contains only a single window and door, de Frutos seems permanently on the outside.

He works by inventing single vignettes of movement, repeating a few gestures for each number. His choreographic range may be small, but the variations of rhythm and scale he creates are intense. He is a true exotic.

His fingers curl and splay with the suppleness of an Indian dancer, while his arms coil as lavishly as a flamenco diva. He plays his body and his moods like a virtuoso, and through a genuine stage alchemy he not only makes us see him as the archetype of the displaced traveller, he also establishes an intimacy by which we end up looking at his nakedness as if it belonged to an old friend.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Contempt case women freed

continued from page 1

Court in London, the two women, their mothers and other friends and relatives left with reporters from the Sun, which had paid the costs of their appeal.

Len Holt, Ms Holt's grandfather, spoke briefly on their behalf. "The girls are very nervous," he said. "They are delighted to be out and looking forward to getting back home with their families and leading a normal life."

"While they think the legal system has let them down, they are glad that the court has seen fit to possibly correct an injustice."

Lord Justice Roch, sitting with Mr Justice Jowitt and Her Honour Judge Ann Goddard QC, said the women had done little to help themselves. "The pair had been given legal aid and told to find solicitors after the halting of the Fryatt case. Ms Holt did not bother, while Ms Bird failed to turn up to a second appointment."

Neither woman revealed to Mr Justice Pearson that they had been subject to intimidation by Fryatt, who was phoning Ms Holt from prison until police intervened, and his friends. They told him they were afraid, but had not received actual threats.

Lord Justice Roch expressed concern during yesterday's hearing that quashing Ms Holt and Ms Bird's sentences would encourage violent men. "Do we send out the signal that if you attack a young woman badly enough so she doesn't give evidence against you, you can have the



A battered Sarah Holt after the alleged attack

advantage of getting away scot-free?"

Alun Jones QC, representing the pair, argued that jailing weak and vulnerable people would discourage them from ever reporting an attack. He quoted the opening chapter of Charles Dickens's Bleak House: "Suffer any wrong that may be done you rather than come here."

The judges dismissed this argument, but agreed with Mr Jones that the Crown Prosecution Service had not followed the procedures laid down in its policy document for domestic violence cases where a victim is unwilling to testify. Under section 23 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, the CPS could have used the women's statements in evidence, without their testimony.

"Had it done so, it might have resulted in the trial proceeding," said Lord Justice Roch. "The judges hoped greater use would be made of the measure in future."

The appeal judges added that Mr Justice Pearson should have adjourned the contempt hearing overnight before sentencing the pair, so that they could think about the consequences of their actions and get legal advice.

Campaigners welcomed the court's decision. Helen Reeves, director of Victim Support, said: "This ruling will come as a great relief to many people. The case highlights the need for more protection to be available for witnesses who fear reprisals. We know of many women who are too scared to give evidence but more would be able to seek justice if a higher priority was given to their protection."

Linda Diggitt, of legal pressure group Rights for Women, said: "It was outrageous that they were imprisoned in the first place. It was totally inappropriate. It took no account whatsoever of the psychological effects of the violence on the witnesses and witness protection was never even mentioned."

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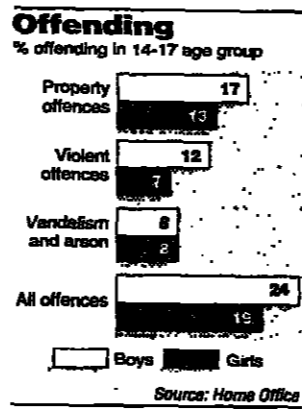
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listens any more. Guardian reporters heard what they had to say about the debate on values moralistic lectures and double talk



Tim Rastall

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER



"Some people weren't brought up to know the difference between right and wrong."

Tim Rastall, 15, of St Clement Lanes, Watford

"Just because someone does something, it doesn't mean you have to."

Catrina Robson, 14, from Woodhey high, Greater Manchester



Catrina Robson

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND

comment favourably on citizenship classes was Amarjit Bangar, 17. "It would be a very good idea, but you have to give them to children when they are young. It's no good giving them to teenagers because they could already be corrupted by them."

work if they were allowed to run riot at home. "You tend to follow the example of your parents," said Gareth Edmondson, 15, from Woodhey high school in Ramsbottom, Manchester. "If they were swearing all the time, you could well end up picking up their habits."

Outside the centre, Laura Brown, also 15, was highly sceptical about the value of moral guidance in schools. "It's impossible to teach young people about morals. Whose beliefs are you going to teach them? If you just lecture young people about what older people think then society is never going to change."

But if lecturing is ineffective, what do young people propose instead? Back at the Ridings in Halifax, Kelly is at least in agreement that something urgent must be done. "The bullying and trouble are really awful. You get gangs with leaders who goad the others into doing stupid things. If they say no, the leaders say: 'That's it, you're out of the gang.'"

"Boys piss in cans and throw them at the girls." Meanwhile, Mark says, discipline inside school is "hopeless" because there are so many supply teachers. "I've got them for science, maths and English and they're the main subjects, aren't they? And for geography. They haven't a clue about what they're doing."

They include an acceptance by Downing Street that de-commissioning of paramilitary weapons will not take place until a political settlement has been reached, and a time frame for talks so Unionists cannot stall indefinitely. There would also have to be greater generosity towards releasing prisoners. Given these assurances, the source said, a ceasefire was probably obtainable. Nevertheless, the manner in which the Government treated the last ceasefire had created deep anger.

Code of discipline improved school

Stevi Bloomfield found teachers and pupils had reason to welcome controls

THREE years ago my school, Ninestiles, a Birmingham comprehensive, brought in a scheme to keep us under control. Discipline wasn't as bad as at some schools, many of us realised things could be better.

those that abide by the rules and do well. A series of consequences has been arranged; the first and second are warnings, the third lines, the fourth detention, the fifth isolation and the sixth suspension. Praise can be given through vouchers, which are put into a draw for £5 or certificates, and can be put into your Record of Achievement, for future employers.

Certain misdemeanours carry heavy consequences. Smoking, fighting, or swearing at teachers are automatic C5 or C6, whereas failure to do homework is only C1. Most teachers welcomed DFL as it gave them a proper system to control their classes. Sceptical pupils felt that the weaker teachers would start using consequences as often as weak referees give out yellow cards. Since the scheme was introduced there has been a marked improvement in general behaviour and attitudes to work. A lot

of the credit for this has been put down to DFL, but in particular to isolation. The isolation room is full of separate wooden booths which stop pupils communicating with each other. A teacher watches over them from a desk at the side as they sit there in complete silence. Many pupils have come out of the isolation room vowing never to get in that much trouble again. Eight in 10 haven't.

Mainland on alert for IRA attack

Security services warn bombers planning revenge for setbacks

Duncan Campbell and David Sharrock

THE security services are anticipating a major IRA attack on the mainland, it was confirmed yesterday. They believe the IRA will want to demonstrate that its ability to strike has been unimpaired by recent arrests and the death of a member during a police operation last month.

The threat will mean particularly tight security around today's state opening of Parliament. As well as the possibility of a big bombing, the security forces are on guard for any attempt to assassinate a high-profile political figure. Protection for a number of VIPs in Northern Ireland has been strengthened. The IRA has often been anxious to demonstrate that after the death of a member or a failed operation it remained capable of carrying out a "spectacular".

the death of Ed O'Brien in the Aldwych on February 18, when the bomb he was carrying exploded on a bus control. One theory held by security sources is that the IRA believes there is unlikely to be political movement on the peace process before a general election, and that its best tactic is to show it has the ability to continue bombing. Senior Republicans in Belfast agree the coming months will be dangerous. But they argue that this is merely stating the obvious, and that nobody welcomes a resumed campaign of violence. "The view is that the IRA leadership is still persuadable, indeed would probably like to be persuaded to call a new ceasefire," a source said. "But that is not going to happen unless the British government does more to convince people that real political negotiations will take place."

They include an acceptance by Downing Street that de-commissioning of paramilitary weapons will not take place until a political settlement has been reached, and a time frame for talks so Unionists cannot stall indefinitely. There would also have to be greater generosity towards releasing prisoners. Given these assurances, the source said, a ceasefire was probably obtainable. Nevertheless, the manner in which the Government treated the last ceasefire had created deep anger. "There is a feeling of depressed resignation among Republicans about the immediate future. There is a view that the British were trying to defeat the IRA by other means during the long ceasefire, and it is going to be very difficult to restore it unless the British government does something about that."

When veteran writer James Trow accused Brown in a resignation letter of "kissing the ass of celebrity", Tina Brown's reply was honed for public consumption. "I am distraught at your defection," she wrote, "but since you never actually write anything I should say I am notionally distraught."

G2 cover story

Minister steps in to Halifax row as teachers ballot

THE RIDINGS SCHOOL

Martin Wainwright

GILLIAN Shepherd, the Education Secretary, yesterday called for a full report on the disciplinary crisis at a West Yorkshire comprehensive where one in 10 of the pupils are on the exclusion register and considered out of control by staff.

called for an urgent report from Calderdale education authority on what is going on at this school. "The inquiry may produce unpalatable evidence that the Ridings has been made a defacto secondary modern school by the local survival of grammar schools and the presence of two "opted out" grant-maintained schools."

Police and council officials in Halifax are investigating a catalogue of assaults on teachers at the Ridings school, Ovenden, which serves two of the most deprived council estates in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Halifax, said: "This town is an example of what a divisive education can do. We have two grammar schools, which have resources flung at them, two opted-out schools which do not have to take disruptive pupils and then four other, under-resourced schools."

Thirty of the high school's 52 staff began a postal strike ballot yesterday organised by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers.

It follows the worst week in the school's disrupted history since it was formed in 1993 by the merger of two rival comprehensives. A teacher was injured by a firework flung by a pupil, another was taken to hospital after being stoned, and a third was set on and punched. Ridings pupils on half-term described how verbal abuse and the flinging of missiles including cans of urine were regular occurrences at the school.

It follows the worst week in the school's disrupted history since it was formed in 1993 by the merger of two rival comprehensives. A teacher was injured by a firework flung by a pupil, another was taken to hospital after being stoned, and a third was set on and punched. Ridings pupils on half-term described how verbal abuse and the flinging of missiles including cans of urine were regular occurrences at the school.

The council is proposing extra staff at the school, which already relies on supply teachers, and a disciplinary task force. The school has tried to impose a Discipline For Learning programme this year, but disruptive pupils have refused to take part and, in some cases, were backed by their parents.

Despair at the situation could lead to direct supervision by the Department for Education, which signalled yesterday that the chief inspector of schools will monitor next month's long-arranged Ofsted inspection of the Ridings. If the visit bears out staff allegations, Mrs Shepherd is expected to send in a task force.

Karen Stansfield, Ridings' head, and one of her deputies are to leave early at the end of the year, blaming exhaustion and disappointment at lack of progress in solving disciplinary problems.

REPORT: Edward Pilkington, Martin Wainwright, Vivek Chaudhary, David Ward, Stuart Millar and Geoffrey Gibbs.

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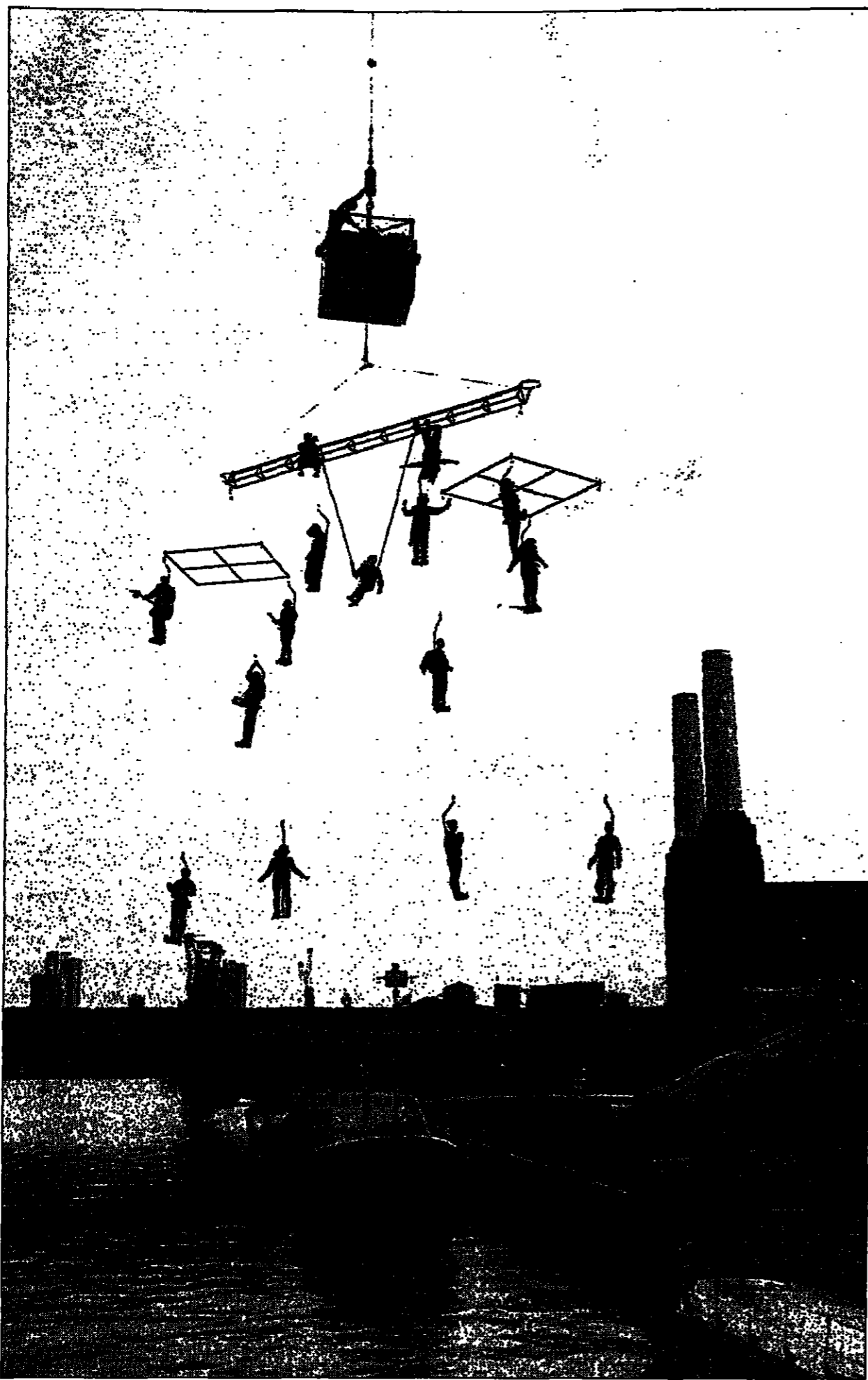
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Hanging out... performers from the Circus of Horrors position themselves over the River Thames in London during their successful bid yesterday to break the world record for people on a human mobile. PHOTOGRAPH: KARL PROUSE

No secure hospital place for stalker facing life

Problem 'stems from transfer of prisoners to hospitals'

Owen Bowcott

A CONVICTED sex offender who stalked a 20-year-old dental nurse — plying her with gifts and threatening her with a wallpaper scraper — was yesterday told sentencing was being delayed due to a shortage of secure psychiatric beds.

Clarence Morris, 37, who is being held in a medium-security mental unit in Hackney, east London, was told he would have to return to Southwark crown court, central London, in two months to be detained indefinitely at Rampton high-security mental hospital in Nottinghamshire.

Lack of spaces in medium- and maximum-security mental units was a national problem, Professor Jeremy Cold told the hearing. The main cause was prisons transferring more disturbed inmates to hospitals.

Morris, of Poplar, east London, has been diagnosed as suffering from paranoid



Perry Southall, who was 'stalked' by Clarence Morris (right)



schizophrenia with a psychopathic disorder.

Last month he was found guilty of common assault on the nurse, Perry Southall, and of causing her actual bodily harm. In an eight-month period, the court heard, there had been 200 incidents. Miss Southall had twice been threatened with a scraper and received 35 "love letters".

Morris also delivered bottles of champagne and women's underwear to the east London dental practice where she worked. She described the ordeal as "terrifying", and said it left her unable to sleep properly.

The case provoked controversy during the trial when Morris's barrister, David Stanton, used his final address to brand Miss Southall a "queen bee dressed to kill".

He said she wore a leather outfit to court to give evidence, knew she was attractive, liked men's attention and encouraged her resemblance to the over-exposed, "sexually active" Baywatch actress Pamela Anderson.

Women who portrayed themselves in that way "ran the risk, particularly these days, of being on the unwelcome end of male attraction". His remarks drew a swift

riposte from the judge, who told him he wished to dissociate himself "from your comments... which ought never to have been made".

A private member's bill may be introduced in the coming session of Parliament to make stalking a criminal offence, and providing for sentences of up to five years.

The Prison Service yesterday confirmed it has increasingly moved disturbed inmates into secure hospitals in recent years under the Mental Health Act in 1990/91, the number placed in secure units was 326. By 1994/95, that had risen to 715.

Rampton, one of the three maximum-security mental hospitals in England, said yesterday it had a "short-term backlog". A spokesman said: "There is a widely recognised shortage of medium-security beds in the system."

Rampton, which now holds 483 patients, is — like Broadmoor and Ashworth — now an NHS Health Authority. Majorie Wallace, of the mental health charity Sane, warned that the beds shortage was becoming critical. "This is a scandal which could have been predicted before hospital beds were closed. The whole system is gridlocked because of the shortage of all kinds of psychiatric beds," she said.

Concert tickets going for a song

Hospital freebies help to keep operas' audience sizes healthy

Dan Glatzer Arts Correspondent

BORED standing in line at hospital waiting for an operation? Why not go to the opera instead? Hospitals are the main clients for papering the practice indulged in by promoters of giving away tickets to fill the gaps in an auditorium.

After the "house full" signs have gone up, some of the audience at many operas and classical music concerts may be there for free, or for a nominal sum.

A spokesman for the English National Opera in London confirmed yesterday that the practice does

take place.

"We keep lists of deserving groups, mostly people who are underprivileged and might not be able to go to the opera on a regular basis."

"If there is space in the house we contact groups at the last minute. There is more of a buzz with a full house, it creates a better atmosphere and increases enjoyment. But we are careful not to undermine the paying audience."

At St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, there is a hotline for staff to ring. At University College Hospital a spokesman said: "We get batches of complimentary

tickets. As they become available they are sent through to our hospital volunteers' organisation and to our social club. They are free and we are not aware of any money changing hands."

David Whelton, managing director of the Philharmonia Orchestra, which opposes the practice, said: "What's happening is an unethical application of Arts Council subsidy. Other orchestras are getting their grant on the basis of false figures."

"It also means that the Arts Council believes that the public is interested in certain minority works, when in fact they haven't been interested in buying tickets at all."

But a spokeswoman for the Arts Council denied that non-paying members

of the audience are included in figures which help to determine funding levels.

"Orchestras and other groups are required to give detailed figures, broken down between paid for and complimentary seats. We are aware of the practice and we do keep a close eye on it."

"What matters is the quality of the work. We do not say that if you don't get 90 per cent attendance we will cut your funding."

Frank Raulston, a chief at University College Hospital who organises the distribution of tickets, said: "I don't make any money out of this. They have used me for 12 years because I guarantee them on seats."

He added: "Never say that it is impossible for one person to fill up a theatre."

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Issued by Midland Bank plc. Suzanne is a fictional character but her story is based upon a real Midland customer. Lines are open 24 hours a day seven days a week.

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Contenders

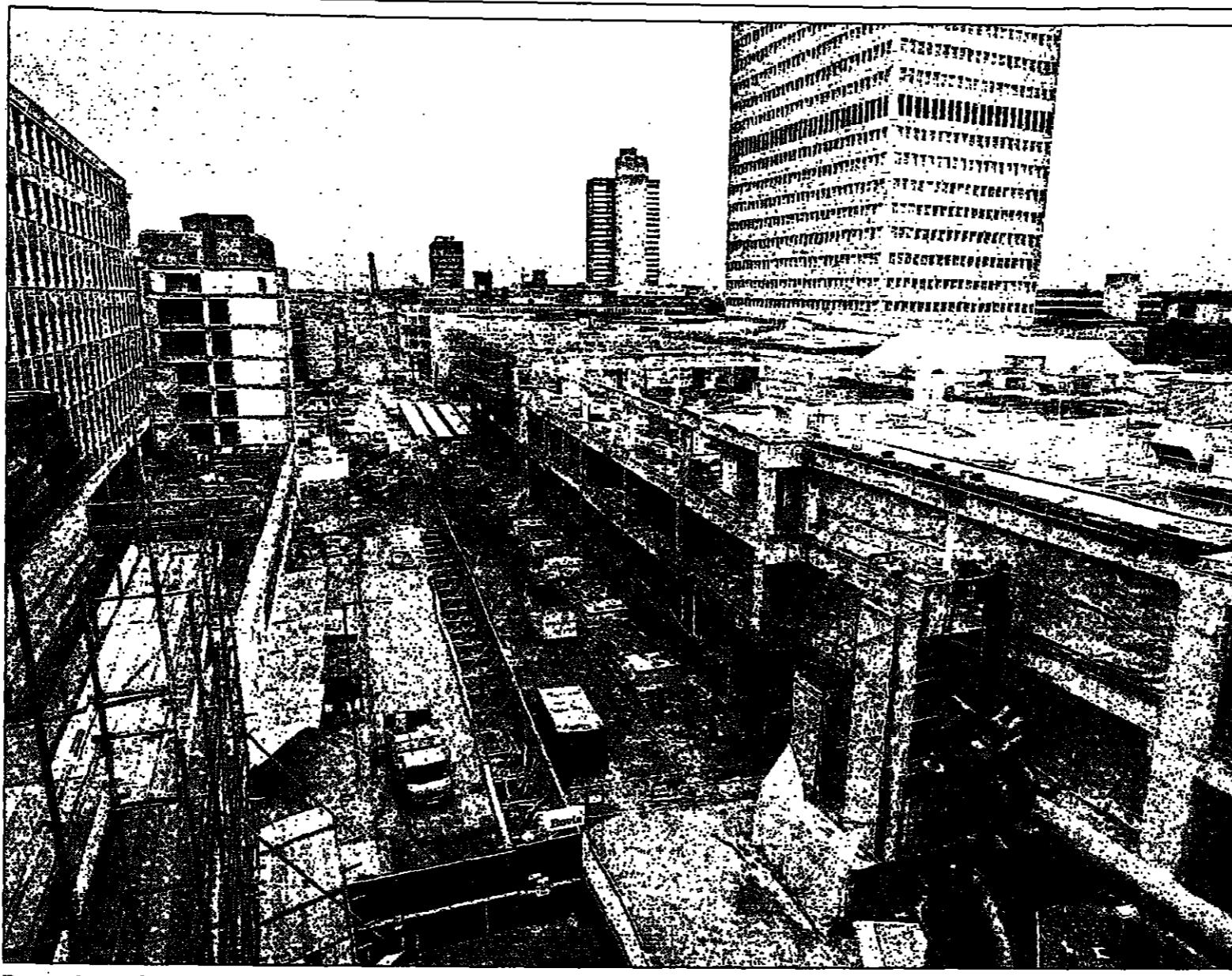
Halliday Meechan Architects/Richard Reid & Associates: propose upgrading the much-criticised Arndale Centre along with 600 flats and pent-houses and a New City Square and Galleria. Envisage widespread pedestrianisation and an extension of the MetroLink tram system into a city centre loop.

EDAW Simpson Baxter and Bayo: A series of interconnected city spaces and streets with a long, pedestrian spine. The new spaces will "link the cultural and retail cores of the city".

Building Design Partnership: Capitalising on Manchester's reputation as an entertainment city, they suggest a 200-metre long gallery under a glass vault.

Manchester First, involving R. James Chapman Architects, with seven other partners: A tall tower, the highest building in Manchester, is proposed as is the creation of 800 flats and houses.

Llewellyn-Davies and Michael Hyde and Associates: Propose a series of urban parks and squares with a "high quality and safe environment for the pedestrian and cyclist".



Restoration work continues around the area devastated by the 3,300lb IRA bomb in Manchester city centre in June

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

Five designs vie to rebuild Manchester

Peter Hetherington

DESIGN proposals were unveiled yesterday for the rebuilding of Manchester city centre after it was devastated by an IRA bomb.

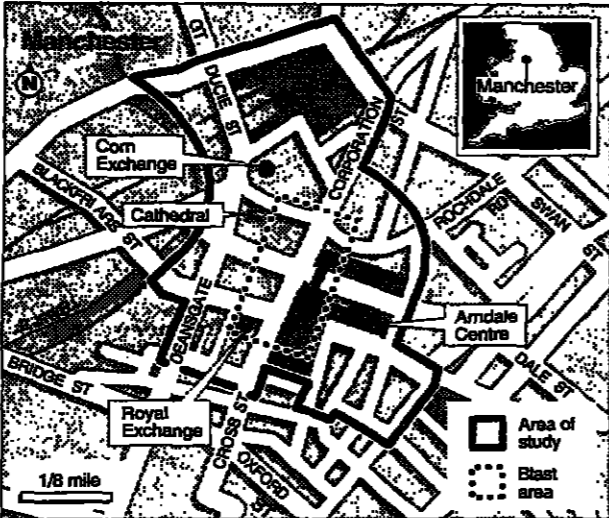
Five designs were selected from a competition set up by Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine, in the wake of the bombing on June 15, which caused up to £500 million damage, destroying over 1,000 square metres of shops and offices.

The shortlisted candidates' plans are due to go to the drawing boards before the winner is announced next month. Although the business and insurers will meet much of the cost of the damage from the 3,300lb bomb which devastated the city's inner core, the public-private sector partnership charged with rebuilding Manchester is seeking a multi-million pound rescue package.

As detailed plans were produced yesterday for creating a greener city centre with parkland complementing new pedestrian areas and squares served by improved public transport, councillors and business leaders were preparing for hard bargaining with senior ministers.

Rebuilding Manchester

Bids for the rebuilding of the centre of Manchester following the blast



pedestrian areas and squares served by improved public transport, councillors and business leaders were preparing for hard bargaining with senior ministers. Although the Government has already promised £21 million by "top slicing" European Union cash earmarked for Britain, talks are beginning with English Partnerships, a Whitehall regeneration agency in the hope of

BDP: capitalising on city's renown for entertainment

ministers delivering more cash to lever private funding. The city has also applied for the Millennium Commission for £15 million to aid the rebuilding, while the Department of Transport is being pressed to give an extra £3 million to redesign roads systems.

The plans stress the importance of linking pedestrian areas with buses, trams and trains — with extra car parking away from the city centre in the hope of creating a "traffic-free environment".

Most of the plans recommended new, pollution-free buses to shuttle people around the city, while one suggests an extension of Manchester's MetroLink tram system around a city loop. The

EDAW: bid to link city's cultural and retail cores

aim is to begin reconstruction next spring and have the area completed on a phased basis over three years.

But hopes that the Arndale shopping centre might be demolished have been dashed. It has been widely reviled as a tiled eyesore.

Peter West, the project co-ordinator, said there could be no question of demolishing it. "It is too important economically as a major retail core," he said.

So the design teams have attempted to modernise the frontage with glass, steel and surrounding walkways, while giving the equally reviled Arndale bus station the boot.

Although most of the designs favour parkland or pedestrianised areas — with traffic confined to the periphery — one scheme takes a more cautious approach. Manchester architect Jim Chapman's design is aimed at "slitching development into the existing street pattern".

Mid-week lottery gets official go-ahead

Andrew Gull Media Correspondent

CAMELOT has been given permission to launch a mid-week National Lottery draw in an attempt to increase flagging ticket sales.

Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, agreed to Camelot's application for a Wednesday night draw, reflecting suggestions it would lead to excessive participation in gambling.

The new draw, which will be officially announced today, is expected to be televised by the BBC and is likely to offer a jackpot of around £5 million.

If the Wednesday night jackpot is not won, it will probably be "rolled over" to the next Saturday — boosting the normal £20 million jackpot to £15 million and producing a surge in ticket sales.

Mr Davis, director-general of the Office of the National Lottery, will explain today whether players will be able to specify whether they are buying tickets for the Wednesday or Saturday night game.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary,

gave her approval to Mr Davis's decision yesterday, although six months ago she said she was opposed to a mid-week draw. In April she told the heritage select committee: "With the participation rates that we have, I would need some issues had been properly considered over several months."

"I only have to satisfy myself that, with a decision to have a further lottery, all aspects have been properly considered." Average spending was £2.30 per head, which she did not regard as excessive.

Camelot would not comment in detail about its plans, but said a mid-week draw had always been part of its business plan, and was in line with international lotteries.

It is likely to lead to an increase in ticket sales of between 20 and 25 per cent a week. Camelot always anticipated that interest in the weekly draw would wane after its initial dramatic success. Ticket sales in the first year were £5.2 billion, and are likely to drop to £4.5 billion in the second.

Viewing figures for BBC's National Lottery Live show have fallen below 10 million after regularly reaching 15 million in the early months.

Officials at the heritage department expect the mid-week draw to help the lottery to regain its momentum and ensure Camelot delivers on its pledge to raise £9 billion for "good causes" during its seven-year licence period.

Plantings by the Forestry Commission, mostly of conifers, increased cover to 7.5 per cent but the Government has determined to double this to 15 per cent and has charged two government quangos to get the scheme off the ground.

In a paper published today, the two organisations say determined action will be needed over many years to plant enough trees to cover 2.5 million acres of England which are currently bare of trees.

They say farmers are unschooled in growing trees and heavily dependent on short-term gains from crops paid for by the common agricultural policy. Reforms are needed and financial incentives to plant trees are necessary to get the scheme going.

Timber production is an important British industry worth about £2 billion in 1994 and employing around 34,000 people. However, Britain imports 86 per cent of its timber, and planting should eventually produce a commercial return.

Woodland Creation: Countryside Commission, PO BOX 124, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9TL (free).

Plan for doubling size of English woodlands

Paul Brown, Environment Correspondent

PLANS to transform the look of the English countryside by planting billions of trees and doubling the woodland cover of the land surface to 15 per cent are being launched today by the Countryside and Forestry Commissions.

Large areas of unproductive farmland and derelict sites abandoned by mining and other industry are earmarked for planting and Midland counties and Cornwall could become heavily wooded.

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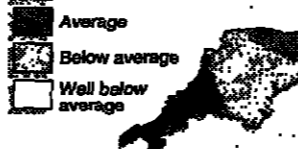
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Woodland creation Opportunities for creating new woodlands in England



Well above average, Above average, Average, Below average, Well below average

Source: Forestry Authority

Legal move by victims of rail crash

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

LAWYERS acting for 35 passengers injured in the Watford rail crash are taking steps to sue Railtrack in order to force the privatised track authority to publish a delayed report into the fatal accident.

The findings will be instrumental in determining who is liable to meet compensation claims, which are likely to run into hundreds of thousands of pounds in the first sizeable action of its kind since British Rail was broken up for privatisation.

Labour claimed the development justified its warnings of the inevitability of complex legal battles following privatisation, when private sector operators would seek to avoid blame for incidents.

Yesterday Railtrack insisted that the report, which it described as "virtually complete", would not be made public, so as not to prejudice the separate findings of inquiries by the Health and Safety Executive and the British Transport Police. Instead it will be submitted to the HSE, whose own report is unlikely to be finalised before next year.

Des Collins, a partner in the Watford-based firm of solicitors Collins, which is representing the largest group of passengers seeking compensation, said: "We are very disappointed that Railtrack is unwilling to publish its report and is putting up a bureaucratic wall of silence."

He said he had been authorised by the Legal Aid Board to take action against Railtrack to force it to make its findings public. "If we have to go to court to get the answers we want, that is what we will do," he added.

One woman was killed and 75 people were injured in the accident, which took place half a mile south of Watford Junction station in August. A total of 360 people were on the 17.04 commuter train from Euston to Milton Keynes when it struck an empty passenger train.

Railtrack sources suggested that initial investigations indicated driver error was the likely cause, and that the owner, Townsend Thoresen, made an immediate admission of liability for the disaster.

Shadow transport spokeswoman Glenda Jackson said last night: "There are real worries that the fragmentation of the railways in the wake of privatisation is turning inquiries of these very serious incidents into a buck-passing exercise rather than a sober attempt to uncover the truth."

She added: "Labour repeatedly called for the inquiry to be published in order to satisfy both passengers and staff working within the industry. Railtrack's failure to reveal the truth about the Watford incident has benefited no-one except its shareholders, while passengers are being forced into the courts."

More than £10 million has been paid out to victims of the 1988 Clapham rail crash, in which 35 people were killed and nearly 500 injured in the pile-up involving three early morning commuter trains.

Alarm as Gazza doll goes awol in Wallace and Gromit's wake

Dan Glastier Arts Correspondent

AS IF Gazza didn't have enough problems, it emerged yesterday that the clubbing superstar had done a Wallace and Gromit.

Hard on the heels of the news that the plasticine duo had been reunited with their maker in New York came the revelation that the Spitting Image puppet of Gazza has been stolen from an exhibition in Brighton. In his place, thieves left two empty beer glasses. The beer is thought to have been used for refuelling purposes.

"We're very disappointed," said a spokeswoman for the Visions 96 exhibition of animation and puppetry at the Gardner Arts Centre at Sussex University. "He's on our brochure and a lot of kids will come just to see him."

Visitors will now have to make do with Muffin the Mule and Mr Punch, as well as other Spitting Image characters.

The break-in occurred when the gallery at the centre was locked during a fresher weekend. "As long as we get him back safely there will be no questions asked," said the spokeswoman.

In a gesture of solidarity, Pinocchio's restaurant in Brighton has offered a reward of a free meal for information leading to Gazza's recovery. Organisers are discounting reports that a New York yellow cab was seen in the area at the time of the break-in.

Secret approval given to supply Argentine warships

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government has secretly approved the supply of spare parts for Argentina's warships despite repeated assurances to Parliament that its export policy has remained unchanged since the Falklands conflict.

Senior Argentine naval officers and Rolls Royce executives have disclosed that an effective ban on the parts was lifted last year when the Government signalled a new chapter in relations between the two countries. In a move with echoes of the arms-to-Iraq affair, the Department of Trade and Industry told Rolls Royce in June last year that the export of parts for the Argentine navy did not, after all, breach Britain's arms embargo imposed in 1982.

The initiative, described by the DTI as a "reassessment", was never disclosed to MPs. It was revealed in a special report for Channel 4's Dispatches programme to be broadcast tomorrow night.

The DTI said yesterday it reviewed Britain's embargo after Rolls Royce told the Commons trade and industry committee in May 1995 that Argentina was becoming "increasingly frustrated at the UK government ban on the sale of spare parts."

In July, the committee reported that the Argentine navy was "still using British equipment but is obviously unable to buy spare parts or replacements. The Government has never corrected the clear impression given to MPs that spare parts were covered by the embargo, though some ministers knew it was incorrect.

Human rights court rejects plea by sex abuse victims barred from suing by time-limit rule

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

HUNDREDS of abuse victims denied the right to sue their attackers had their hopes of compensation dashed by a judgment yesterday from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The court rejected claims by four women who were sexually abused in childhood that the law requiring civil assault actions to be brought within six years of reaching

the age of 18 breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

The ruling exposes a loophole in the law which allows many abusers to escape the consequences of their actions. Abuse victims may not appreciate the extent of their psychological scars until their 20s or 30s, but lose the right to sue at 24.

The judgment is an unexpected blow for abuse victims because the European Commission of Human Rights, whose opinion the court usually follows, had unanimously

backed the women's case. The decision ends an 11-year battle by Lesley Stubblings, now 39, to sue her adoptive father for abusing her between the ages of two and 14 and his son for raping her when she was 12. She was in her late 20s when she realised, after undergoing psychiatric treatment and seeing a TV documentary on incest, that there might be a connection between her psychological problems and the abuse.

A mature student from Wivenhoe, Essex, she was "angry, but not totally surprised" at the outcome yesterday and vowed to campaign to change the law. "This would have been a very important turning point for women to have that choice of taking action, but they will have to take the alternative route of campaigning to get the law changed."

Ms Stubblings, who has two children, said she had gained self-esteem from bringing the legal action. "I am not a passive victim and I never will be again."

She initially won her case in the High Court and Court of Appeal, but lost in the House of Lords. The law lords ruled that unlike the flexible and extendable three-year limit for negligence claims, the six-year limit for deliberate assaults was rigid.

The three other women were identified only by their initials. JL, 34, won legal aid to sue her father, who sexually abused her and took pornographic photographs of her, but had to abandon the case after the Lords decision.

DS, 34, also had to drop a civil action she started four years ago against her father

after he was given a year's probation for sexually assaulting her between the ages of six and 15. JP, 39, recalled sexual abuse by her primary school deputy head while undergoing therapy at the age of 31. She sued him four years ago but legal aid was withdrawn after the ruling in Lesley Stubblings' case.

Canada and some US states have relaxed legal time limits for abuse victims. The Law Commission plans to publish a consultation paper on time limits next year, which may suggest reforms.

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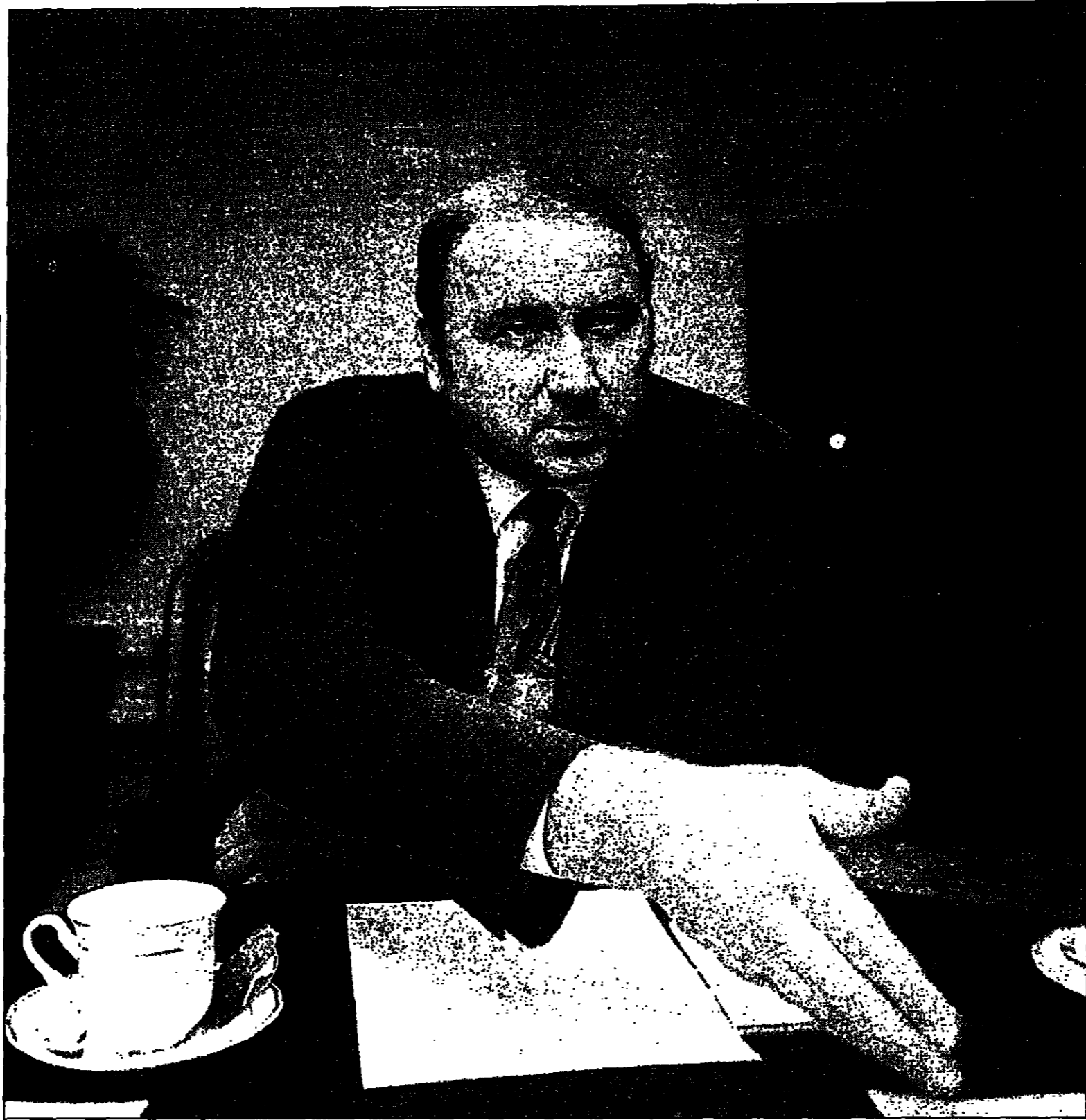
NEW & USED BOOKS

'Rasputin' says Yeltsin too ill to rule

In an exclusive interview with **David Hearst** in Moscow, Yeltsin's former bodyguard General Alexander Korzhakov tells of his fears for Russia. He says that, with the president in hospital, power is in the hands of chief of staff Anatoli Chubais, and this 'regency' threatens national stability

HE HAS been called the Rasputin of Russian politics. Some said he was as important to President Boris Yeltsin as the secret police chief Beria was to Stalin. But yesterday, speaking in a secret suite in an anonymous central Moscow hotel, Lieutenant-General Alexander Korzhakov, who looks most of all like a sporting country gentleman, laughed and said he was no monster. Throwing his arms wide open, he smiled: "Well, what do you think? Do I look like Beria?"

In his first formal interview with a Western journalist, the Russian leader's former bodyguard talked with surprising candour about the man he shielded for so long. His aim was clear: to convince his listener that Mr Yeltsin was too ill to carry on, that power was actually being wielded by the president's chief of staff, Anatoli Chubais, who was acting as a regent, and that this regency was dangerous for Russia and could provoke a revolt.



Mr Korzhakov yesterday with a letter signed by Mr Yeltsin's doctors warning of the health hazards of electioneering PHOTOGRAPH: GLEB KOSORUKOV

down the hill fast. I am not for pre-term elections, that must be decided by the Duma and the Council of the Federation. But so many things have already been said about transferring Yeltsin's powers to [Viktor] Chernomyrdin [the prime minister who will become acting president during the forthcoming heart operation], then let these powers be transferred.

"I don't want to answer such a question, because I have told you before that I am not going to say bad things about the president. This is unethical. I liked very much how Lebed answered when he was provoked by a rude question about the president. He said: 'This is an old, ill man and never hit a man when he is down.' What I say is, if there is an old, ill man, let a healthy man take the power in his hand."

By the way, Gen Korzhakov adds with a smile, it was not he who selected what newspapers the president read. That was another service. Gen Korzhakov described Mr Yeltsin as a man completely in the hands of his younger daughter Tatiana

he signs without as a rule consulting with the people who are appointed. He completely believes his team. "Tatya [his daughter] brings him the papers, and the papers are all prepared in Chubais' headquarters. You know that [Vladimir] Lukin [the former radical democratic acting prime minister] now has a stable place there. Everything is as it was before."



'The country needs an active president. It is rolling down the hill very fast'

'I wouldn't like things to get to the level of a popular revolt, but events are moving this way'

'What I say is, if there is an old, ill man, let a healthy man take the power in his hand'

'We were given a spectacular demonstration of how artistically he signed the decree himself'

'He has been described as Lenin in Gorki. I see him more as Gorbachev in Faros'

New routes to union

John Palmer in Brussels
FRANCE and Germany have given their clearest warning yet that they are ready to find other ways to move towards closer economic and political union if Britain blocks their right to do so within the European Union.

It accompanied their formal presentation to the Maastricht treaty review conference in Brussels yesterday of proposals to end one country's power to veto a decision by the others to co-operate more closely.

The two countries say their "flexibility" strategy, which allows "enhanced co-operation" between EU countries who want it, does not hide an intention to exclude Britain from closer integration.

In effect, however, they have served notice on John Major that if Britain stops EU countries co-operating more

News in brief

Prison fire kills 30
More than 30 prisoners were killed in a riot and fire at a jail in central Caracas yesterday, Venezuela's justice ministry said.

Lawyer shot dead
Gilson Nogueira, a human rights lawyer investigating a series of suspected death-squad murders in north-east Brazil, was killed by unknown gunmen at the weekend, officials said. — Reuter.

Islamists charged
Turkey has charged two Islamist journalists yesterday with insulting a senior commander of the armed forces in an article, the Anatolian news agency said. — Reuter.

Tribesmen arrests
Yemeni security forces have arrested 18 members of the al-Toalman tribe, which kidnapped a French diplomat in the capital Sana'a on Monday. The diplomat has still not been found. — Reuter.

Swedish clincher
Sweden's plans to reform the UN war it in a two-year seat on the Security Council, the foreign minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen said yesterday. — AP.

Fonda worked up
Jane Fonda stepped into New York's cable-television battle between her husband Ted Turner and the Fox News Channel by accusing the mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, of slanging with Fox because it employs his wife. — AP.

How China killed a revolution

Forty years ago, Russia almost gave in to Hungary's revolt — but not for long. **Julian Borger** reports from Budapest

FORTY years after the Hungarian uprising, newly unearthed documents show that the divided and anxious Soviet leadership seriously considered pulling its troops out and giving its East European satellites a freer rein.

should be withdrawn from Budapest. If necessary, from all of Hungary. This is a military and political lesson for us."

Nikita Khrushchev, who was then struggling to assert his ascendancy in the presidency, argued that Moscow's only alternative to a military quagmire was to offer its East European neighbours greater leeway.

Janos Rainer, a historian who has analysed the uprising, wrote in *Hungarian Quarterly*: "The possibility of the withdrawal of troops flashed up for a moment, as did the possibility of a different kind of relationship within the [communist] camp."

One of the factors which turned withdrawal into invasion appears to have been the role of the Chinese Communist Party. China was pressing for an equal leading role in world communism and was vocal about events in Europe.

The post-Stalinist Soviet leadership, seeking a reduction in world tension to enable it to rebuild the Soviet economy, was anxious to avoid a rift with Beijing.

Khrushchev met a Chinese delegation led by Liu Shao Qi immediately after the October 30 announcement, and was told that Moscow was being too soft and that "the troops must stay in Budapest and in Hungary."

Danes to block EU action

John Palmer in Brussels
EUROPEAN Union plans to retaliate against the United States if it penalises European companies trading with Cuba, Iran and Libya appeared close to collapse yesterday after last minute opposition from the Danish government.

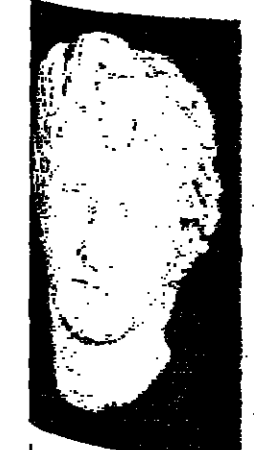
Locked in a legal battle with its Eurosceptic critics, the Danish government fears that any EU move to impose counter-sanctions would be condemned by the Danish high court as unconstitutional.

EU foreign ministers, who meet in Luxembourg on Monday, had been expected to finalise counter-measures to deter the United States from implementing the Helms-Burton Act. The act allows US courts to penalise firms found to be "trafficking" with companies nationalised by the Cuban government. Washington has also introduced sanctions against companies investing in Iran and Libya.

"We will try to get the Danes to change their minds before a decision is made on Monday," a commission spokesman said.

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British treasures
stolen art from
Soviet lives — is
being auctioned.
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sports from Vienna

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Chirac gets physical on Israel visit

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

FLUSHED and furious, the President Jacques Chirac clashed angrily with Israeli security men in the Old City of Jerusalem yesterday on the second day of a tense official visit.

"This is provocation. Stop this now. What do you want for me to go back to my plane and go home to France?" he bawled in English.

It didn't come to that. Mr Chirac was still in Israel last night, after a fulsome apology from the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

It has been an ill-tempered visit from the start, with disputes about Mr Chirac's itinerary and his stated purpose of raising Europe's profile in Middle East peacemaking.

Yesterday it became a more personal affair, as the first citizen of France attempted an informal tour of the Old City, in occupied East Jerusalem.

France, in step with most other countries, does not recognise Israel's claim to sovereignty in East Jerusalem. The president therefore turned down the offer of an official tour with the stoutly nationalist Mayor, Ehud Olmert.

From the start, President Chirac was tightly wedged in a phalanx of Israeli security men, both uniformed and bulgingly plain-clothed.

Within a cordon of cameramen engaged in freestyle wrestling with the guards, the President of France made his undignified progress through the twisting alleys of the ancient city.

Finally, his patience ran out and he turned on the officer in charge.

"We are doing it for your security, Mr President," said the hapless minder.

"My security is my concern," snapped Mr Chirac. That was in French. The bitter stuff, about being harassed into returning home, was in pristine English.

At the Harat al-Sharif, site of the great al-Aqsa mosque, the president got physical. "No security now. I don't want you. Go away. You have no business here," he said, and tried to shove his guards away from the gate. It didn't work. They followed him inside.

It was the same at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and at the Wailing Wall. But, at St Anne's, a venerable

crusader foundation, he had a moment of revenge when he discovered a small squad of border guards had preceded him into the church. St Anne's is a tiny sliver of France, having been given to Napoleon III by the Ottoman Turks in 1856 for French help during the Crimean unpleasantness. Presidential officials were in no doubt on the matter: the soldiers must leave.

"This is French territory," they splendidly announced. "It is an order of the French president." They left.

Later, having delivered a robust complaint to the authorities, Mr Chirac had the additional pleasure of hearing Mr Netanyahu apologise for the morning's indignities.

Mr Chirac's visit has not produced the effect he sought. Israeli leaders are unmoved

Israeli MPs rebuff Arafat

THREE rightwing Israeli MPs who claim they inadvertently found themselves yesterday in a room with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, refused to shake his hand and were ordered to leave by his security guards.

Mr Arafat extended his hand to a group of MPs visiting Bethlehem, including Avraham Stern of the National Religious Party, Benny Elon of the far-right Moleket Party, and Zeev Baum of Likud.

Mr Elon told him: "When we come to visit you, it will be with tanks." — AP.

by his pleas for a greater European role in a peace process which yesterday seemed mired in confusion.

The special US envoy, Dennis Ross, who for 15 days has been coaxing Israeli and PLO negotiators towards a compromise on the withdrawal of occupation forces from the West Bank town of Hebron, remained in Israel last night, 24 hours after he had announced he was returning to America.

In an ominous development, two Palestinians were killed in fresh violence in the West Bank: Israeli troops shot dead a youth during a stone-throwing incident near Ramallah; and a motorist was killed in a rocket attack near a Jewish settlement.



Jacques Chirac's visit takes an undiplomatic turn in the Old City, Jerusalem, as the French president pushes away an Israeli bodyguard outside the Temple Mount

Tutsi raids spread in east Zaire

Chris McGreal in Bukumbura

DOZENS more people were killed as fighting spread in eastern Zaire, with raids on villages and refugee camps north of Goma. More than 20,000 have fled from there.

To the south, there was fighting in the hills around Uvira as the United Nations was finally able to evacuate 48 aid workers who had been trapped in their compound.

About 150,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi fled about 10 camps near Uvira at the weekend after raids on at least two. Only a fraction of the refugees have arrived at UN reception centres near Bukumbura.

Several Banyarwanda Tutsi soldiers who joined the Rwandan Patriotic Front when it launched its own rebel war six years ago have returned to Zaire and are helping to coordinate the fighting. The Banyarwanda say they are fighting against a co-ordinated effort to steal their property and expel or exterminate them.

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The Zairean army, is faring poorly in the face of the attacks. Notoriously more interested in looting than fighting, it has retreated from the latest raids. It is short of ammunition and equipment.

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Whites in majority on new OJ jury

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

MONTHS passed before the first O. J. Simpson trial became distorted by race, but in OJII America's black-white gulf opened up during jury selection.

The 12 who were finally chosen are to take their courtroom seats today in the Los Angeles seaside suburb of Santa Monica to hear opening speeches in the civil suit against Mr Simpson.

He has barred the defence from introducing arguments about police conspiracy unless his lawyers can produce direct evidence. This may pre-empt tactics deployed by the original defence "dream team". Most of the lawyers are also new.

Two new items of evidence will be introduced, both found by journalists. One is a picture of Mr Simpson wearing a pair of exclusive Bruno Magli shoes. The shoes have a sole pattern allegedly matching size 12 footprints at the murder site.

The other is a tape recording, suggesting a suicidal frame of mind, made by Mr Simpson before his 1994 arrest.

The criminal court jury. A civil hearing needs only a 9-3 verdict, so the 12 could split on racial lines.

The racial clash began when the plaintiffs' lawyers rejected six jurors, all African-Americans. The defence removed three whites, but complained that their opponents were racially motivated.

Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki — a Japanese-American like the first judge, Lance Ito, but much stricter — overruled the objection.

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Nazi loot up for grabs as treasures go on sale



Austria's hoard of Jewish treasures — 'Stolen art from stolen lives' — is being auctioned. Ian Traynor reports from Vienna

FIFTY years after Austria secreted some of the Nazi spoils of war in a Danubian monastery and hoped the crime would be forgotten, the plundered art of middle-class Jewish Vienna is going to auction.

In the macabre sale Christie's is to dispose of more than 8,000 paintings and objects d'art stolen in 1938-45 from Austria's pre-war Jewish community of 180,000.

Antiques ranging from an ancient Greek bust of Alexander the Great (left) to a 20th century Russian cubist painting Carafe, by Alexander Archipenko (left), from old masters to pastoral 19th century oils, and cut crystal to silver candlesticks, go under the hammer here on Tuesday.

The sale is expected to raise at least \$3 million for Holocaust survivors and their families.

"It is the stolen art from stolen lives," said Peter Noever, head of Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts, where the curtain was finally lifted yesterday on the Mauerbach

Collection, named after the 14th century monastery outside Vienna where the government kept the art hidden until last year. "The inheritance of the murdered, the expelled, and the forgotten is on show here."

Viewing the thousands of pieces is like intruding on a private, unspoken grief. "We're very unhappy about this sale. We'd much rather not have had this. But what are we supposed to do?" said Peter Liska, vice-president of Vienna's Jewish community.

The antiques and paintings once graced the drawing rooms of the Jewish middle class. Antique carved bedsteads and incomplete porcelain dinner services are on offer, the sad relics of a culture viciously rubbed out. More than a third of Austria's Jews died in concentration camps.

The fate of the Mauerbach Collection is a tale of secrecy, cover-ups, and deliberate bureaucratic obfuscation.

In a foreword to Christie's sale catalogue, the president of Austria, Thomas Klestil, welcomes the auction "as the culmination of efforts by the Austrian government over many years to return objects of art and other items seized from Austrian Jews by the Nazis to their rightful owners."

In fact, the Austrian government stalled for decades. The American occupying power rounded up the booty in and after 1945, and handed it over to Austria on condition that the government returned it to the victims' families. The Austrian state treaty of 1955, which establishing the present republic, obliged the government to return the art to its owners or their heirs.

Parts of the collection were returned to prominent families, such as the Rothschilds, but most of it was hidden away and minimal effort was made to trace the owners. In the mid-1980s a US art magazine blew the whistle on Austria's secret cache. "That was very embarrassing for the government," said Mr Liska.

Finally, last year, parliament voted to turn the collection over to the shrunken Jewish community. But the suspicion remains that the Austrians may have helped themselves to the pick of the collection. Alfred Lissner, a New York researcher into the fate of the Nazi loot, told the current issue of Jerusalem Report that in the 1960s many items ended up in the hands of Austrian officials.

Austria cultivated the myth that it was Hitler's first victim for almost as long as it hid the art. It was only in 1991 that Chancellor Franz Vranitzky revised that verdict by admitting that Austria was also an accomplice to Nazism.

Had the former Austrian amateur painter Adolf Hitler had his way, many of the paintings would have ended up in the town of Linz, near his native village, which he dreamed of transforming into a "Teutonic metropolis." In its favour, Austria is the only country which has surrendered untraceable Nazi loot for public auction. Elsewhere there are plenty more well-kept, dirty and extremely valuable secrets.

News in brief

Ortega rejects poll figures

NICARAGUA'S Sandinista leader, Daniel Ortega, yesterday rejected partial election results which show his right-wing rival, Arnoldo Aleman of the Liberal Alliance Party, leading in the presidency. Claiming irregularities and discrepancies between official figures and the Sandinista National Liberation Front's count, Mr Ortega said the former Managua mayor's victory declaration was premature.

"At this time we cannot recognize the results, since we found a series of anomalies, especially referring to the information that arrived at [the computation center] by telegram," he said.

With 54 per cent of the vote counted, Mr Aleman seemed to be heading for the presidency with 48.5 per cent of the vote, a lead of nearly 10 percentage points over Mr Ortega. Mr Aleman declared victory on Monday when the first results were announced, promising "to form a national government so we can all make the change [for the good of Nicaragua]." — AP, Managua.

California fires

WIND-DRIVEN wildfires spread across southern California, forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes and scorching 18,200 acres of brushland. Marines were helping the firefighters.

The worst of the fires had destroyed 60 homes in the seaside suburb of Carlsbad, in northern San Diego County, by early yesterday. Fire chief Sonny Hilliard said: "We're overwhelmed. Most of the area has already been evacuated." — AP, Carlsbad.

Syphilis epidemic

SEXUALLY transmitted diseases have reached near epidemic proportions in Russia and medical institutions are unable to cope with them, officials said yesterday. Alexei Karpeyev, head of the health ministry's venereal diseases department, said 20 per cent more Russians were infected with syphilis than last year, and of every 100,000 people 177 were infected, compared to an average of three per 100,000 in other European countries.

Dioxins at 1976 Italian disaster site unsafe, Greenpeace says

Reuters in Milan

THE environmental group Greenpeace said yesterday it had found high levels of dioxin near the site of the 1976 chemicals disaster at Seveso in northern Italy.

Recent soil tests from a field near the disaster site found similar levels of dioxins to those in 1982, the group said.

"Despite strong concerns raised by the publication of the 1982 figures, nothing has been done to solve the problem of dioxin contamination in the area of the accident."

An explosion and chemical leak at a factory owned by Icc

mesa, an affiliate of the Swiss pharmaceuticals giant Roche, on July 10 1976 spewed out poisonous dioxin, killing farm animals and causing skin diseases among residents of Seveso, north of Milan.

Greenpeace said the dioxin levels were 10 times what Italy's agriculture committee considered safe for food production.

"We are conscious that our data are not yet enough to present a general frame of contamination in the whole area. Nevertheless it is necessary to know the exposure risk for the farmers working this land and the farm animals feeding from it."

Bosnian local polls delayed as rival parties fail to co-operate

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

BOSNIA'S rehabilitation suffered another setback yesterday when the international organisation in charge of its elections postponed the local polls scheduled for late November because of the lack of co-operation by the parties.

The polls, following on from September's presidential elections, were seen as the last chance for Bosnia to be reunited — and for the increasingly impatient international community to start disengaging.

The postponement is likely to delay further the departure

of the 53,000-strong Nato-led peace implementation force. For an unknown number, including United States troops, are now certain to stay on in a successor force.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, warned yesterday against open-ended commitments, saying the Bosnian parties must keep their side of the bargain if international help is to continue.

Time is also running out for other aspects of the peace agreement.

The head judge of the United Nations war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia said on Monday that if the West does not arrest leaders indicted for crimes against

humanity in Bosnia within 10 months, he and other officials may "pack up and go home".

The local elections were first rescheduled in September after the Bosnian Serbs, and to some extent the other ethnic factions, flooded the voter rolls with their supporters to cement their hold on key towns.

An official of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is in charge of the polls, said: "The OSCE is confident it can meet the logistical challenges, but only if it has the full support and co-operation of the parties. But they are not confident of that support in the four weeks before election day."

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Politics, not government

Nothing matters to MPs now except the election

THE DISJUNCTION between what people deserve from the political system and what they actually get from it is never more acute than on days like today. This morning the Queen will go to Westminster to lead a series of ceremonies which were once intended to show something hugely important — that the Crown is subject to the rule of parliament. Today these once revolutionary state rituals have lost all meaning to most people and have become only anachronistic and reactionary. They now merely emphasise the gulf which exists between the culture of the political class as a whole (which in this context includes the Queen) and an overwhelmingly indifferent public. Parliamentarians and the more lofty commentators may continue to treat this morning's rites with the traditional reverence. The reality is that they have become simply absurd. Rather than reasserting what is right in the British constitution and democratic system, they embody to the highest degree much of what is wrong with it.

The Queen will then read out her Government's legislative plans for the new parliamentary session (it will be a short speech) and this afternoon MPs will begin to debate them at much greater length. Because of the mood of the moment, the party leaders will speak passionately and sincerely about the need for strong institutions, strong families and strong moral values — ideals with which few can disagree. There will be much piety about the views expressed by Frances Lawrence, though rather less in the way of explicit endorsement of some of her proposals, especially if they involve public spending. There will be frequent references to the Catholic bishops — favourable from the Labour benches, where Catholic bishops are unexpectedly in vogue this autumn, less favourable from the Conservatives, where Catholicism has

suddenly lost something of its recent allure.

It will sound serious. But in terms of genuine social reform it is in fact deeply unserious. The politicians are not responding to the public mood because they have thought about it, let alone because they agree with it. They are simply reflecting the latest passing fashion to have caught their attention, and bending it opportunistically to their own purposes. These purposes are not legislative at all. There is not the slightest possibility that the concern in the country will resolve itself into new laws or initiatives intended to meet the needs expressed by the public. If Government bills emerge from the current debate they will be drafted with the aim of embarrassing Labour rather than solving social ills.

The relatively short session of Parliament which begins today (it must end by May next year rather than running through to the usual October close) is entirely and exclusively about the general election. The legislative programme will be light. This is partly because the Conservatives have run out of new things to do (today's Queen's Speech is expected to contain yet another Crime Bill and yet another Education Bill), partly because party strategists want to focus all the attention (their own rebellious backbenchers included) upon election themes, and partly because John Major still wants to preserve the option of an improbable early election. But the underlying point is that everything in politics for the next seven months is about pre-electoral party manoeuvring. The Conservatives are bringing forward bills not because they think they are necessary but because they think they may embarrass Labour. If you do not yet know the difference between government and politics, the next seven months will supply all the answers.

Pulling out the digits

Cable companies are stronger: now unshackle BT

YESTERDAY'S merger of the telephone business of Cable and Wireless with three cable companies ought to create some serious domestic competition for British Telecom leading to lower prices for the consumer. It covers a third of all households with access to cable and so should have a significant effect. The trouble is we have all been round this course before. This is really a marriage of two failed cultures. C & W's Mercury subsidiary was supposed to provide an effective alternative in the domestic phone market for BT but it hasn't done so. BT still has over 90 per cent of that market notwithstanding competition from cable companies and mobile phones. The cable companies were set up to provide alternative television services without so far making much impact. They were rescued from oblivion when the Government allowed them to offer rival telephone services to BT in 1991. Since then they have concentrated on the more profitable telephony side while Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB has taken them to the cleaners in the television market by exploiting his hard-won monopoly of key sporting services. Cable companies fear that BSkyB is trying to squeeze them out by raising the price of the sports services it provides for them. Miserably, they have so far failed to convince the regulatory authorities that anything is wrong. Maybe stronger cable companies will soon have the financial muscle to squash Mr Murdoch's bid to be the Big Brother of sports transmission.

The new company — Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) — claims it will be the only organisation in the UK capable of offering a combination of telecoms, broadband, data transmission, video shopping and Internet access. This ought to be a winning combination because there are signs in the US that cable companies offering very-high speed (fibre optic) telephone lines open 24 hours a day may win the battle for access to the Internet. Whether CWC will get its act together will depend on the exploitation of marketing skills not obviously present at the moment. Either way the emergence of a strong multi-media cable consortium means there is no longer any justification for the Government's ban on British Telecom entering the market for providing television services. The Government should set an early deadline for its termination. BT is still an overlarge monopoly as regards its domestic telephone service. But that is no reason why the national carrier should be handicapped in the global race for multi-media supremacy.

The trouble with the cable companies is that they have been cherry-picking their franchises. If Britain is to maximise the gains from the information revolution, access must be both affordable and nationwide. The laudable objective of providing universal access to the Internet and all the accessories of the digital age will be more likely to happen if BT doesn't have its hands tied behind its back.

The mixed taste of victory

Nicaraguans may not have chosen such an easy road

THE VICTOR in the Nicaraguan elections, Arnaldo Aleman, has a droll sense of humour. As mayor of Managua, he changed the giant initials of the Sandinista party etched on a hill overlooking the capital from "FSLN" to "FIN" — meaning the end of the road for the revolution. Mr Aleman now seeks respectability and says it was a "childish" move, but the election signifies a harsh conclusion for Daniel Ortega. The former president cut his hair, confessed to being a sinner, and dropped the Sandinistas' anthem in favour of the Ode to Joy. It may have halved the gap between the Sandinista Front and Mr Aleman's Liberal Alliance, but it also divided his own ranks. And in spite of yesterday's claim of polling "irregularities", Mr Ortega has failed to overcome Mr Aleman's blatant propaganda portraying him as communist wolf in capitalist wool.

Any judgement upon the Sandinistas' mistakes before losing power in the 1990 election should be qualified by simple history. Two years after the revolution, the US began covert support for the contras. Soon Ronald Reagan announced his aim to "remove" the government in Managua. The dirty war killed more than 25,000 civilians. Three out of four people still live in poverty and Nicaragua ranks second-poorest in the hemisphere. Mr Ortega is obscurely blamed for this.

Mr Aleman is the unshamed champion of the landlords' cause with good friends in Miami. He has campaigned for wholesale reversal of the Sandinistas' land confiscations — from rich owners such as himself. He also ridiculed the more moderate post-1990 government of Violeta Chamorro, and wants to fling open the door to private investment. Half measures are out of fashion in the New World, as Nicaragua may find out the hard way.

Disorderly Brawl in a Hulwit



Letters to the Editor

Lord, deliver us from moralising politicians

THE hand-wringing impotence of the moralising middle class in the face of social disintegration is evidenced in your leader (October 22) becoming increasingly perplexing. Mrs Thatcher didn't achieve her social revolution by preaching "hedonistic individualism", but by emptying the public purse into private pockets and giving the green light to white-collar banditry.

The Church and politicians seem now to be swapping roles: while the Catholic bishops recognise that a betterment in public morality will come about only through an improvement in material circumstances, politicians of all complexions seem to prefer preaching to the use of power (or taxation) to improve the circumstances of those who have nothing to gain by behaving themselves.

David Small,
35 Tranby Gardens,
Wollaton,
Nottingham NG8 2AB.

ALL THIS back to God competition among the political parties (Major joins the Christian high ground, October 21) is an irrelevant abstraction. The fundamental source of immorality in the modern world is that "the free-market economy" is essentially a system of organised selfishness. So long as it is dominating everything, human feeling will be kicked into second place.

(Dr) James Hemming,
31 Broom Water,
Teddington,
Middlesex TW11 9QJ.

RELIGION, like politics, is the last refuge of the scoundrel. I shall be impressed by John Major's virtue only when, ignoring his party's desire to cling to office, he punishes those in his party who deal in deceit.

As for Tony Blair, it is easy for politicians in opposition to be honest. How will Tony Blair and his colleagues, Christian or otherwise, behave once faced with the temptations of power?

(Dr) Dorothy Rowe,
40 Highbury Grove,
London N5 2AG.

COULD I suggest that Major and Blair re-read the parable of the mote and the beam? They might then agree that those who support the acquisition of genocidal weapons have no moral authority to condemn those who get a thrill from carrying knives or handguns.

Mike Garnier,
19 Cotham Grove,
Bristol BS6 6AN.

CATHOLIC social teaching has a long and creditable history. It calls for social justice in all fields of life. It certainly does not back a political party.

We should be grateful that the English Catholic Church has re-discovered its social teaching. When Catholics forget social teaching, they start backing far-right groups, such as the "Christian" coalition of the US.

Please do not put off the Catholic Church from speaking out on social policy by labelling it pro-Blair, especially when Labour is not famous for its concern for social justice.

Imogen Caterer,
St Stephen's Vicarage,
84 Frampton Road,
Gloucester GL1 5QB.

AS AN Anglican and a Socialist Movement, can I say how I welcome the statement by the Roman Catholic bishops on social justice, The Common Good?

It makes a stark contrast to the bishops of my own Church of England whose silence on many issues — such as sleaze — is deafening. Perhaps this is the result of a committee church with its plethora of commissions and advisers in this or that social

issue. The established Church seems unable to give a moral lead on anything.

(Rev) Anthony Hodgson,
St Thomas Vicarage,
8 Norwood Court,
Eighton Banks,
Gateshead NE8 7XF.

ALL religions, said Tom Paine 200 years ago, originally had a "native mildness", and were "united with the principles of morality". They became "morose and intolerant" only after union with the state, and then became responsible for the burnings of the Inquisition and the persecutions which drove the English Quakers to America and the French silk-weavers to England.

Remove the links with the secular establishment, and religions would once more revert to their native mildness.

Harry Davis,
49 Spear Road,
Thames Ditton,
Surrey KT7 0PJ.

WHY does Conservative MP David Wilshire tell us what is not in the New Testament rather than what is? Too tough maybe? For instance: "I give you a new commandment — love thy neighbour as thyself"; "it is easier for a camel to pass

through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven"; "sell all you have and give to the poor". Revolutionary stuff and a million miles from Thatcherism.

Colin Stringer,
173 Woodland Avenue,
Filton,
Brentwood CM15 1HN.

IN MY New Testament, Jesus tells a parable about the owner of a vineyard who recruits workers at several times throughout the working day, but who pays them all the same amount, a living wage. Did he envisage God as the owner of that vineyard?

David Hitchin,
35 Spences Lane,
Lewes BN7 2HF.

Around Britain

TOMORROW the Office of National Statistics will take a decision affecting Irish people in Britain for the next 15 years. It concerns the inclusion of an Irish category in the Ethnic Group question in the census. It has become increasingly apparent since 1991 that the lack of census information places Britain's Irish community at a serious disadvantage. The planning of social services, housing, health care, and many other support services depends on such accurate statistics. Irish people in Britain experience poorer health, higher rates of mortality and economic disadvantages which are passed from one generation to the next. These disadvantages are striking when compared to the indigenous white population, and when compared to other ethnic minorities.

We would like to state our support for separate categories for Irish people in the Ethnic Group question in the 2001 census. We would urge the ONS to put an end to the anomalous situation where the largest ethnic-minority group in Britain is invisible.

(Prof) Sheila Miller,
Barts Hospital,
Donal Mooney,
Editor, Irish Post,
(Prof) Ceri Peach,
Oxford University,
and 15 others.
Federation of Irish Societies,
52 Camden Square,
London NW1 9XB.

THE PICTURE of Stevenage you present (Barbara's path, October 16) is not the Stevenage we know. In the past three years there has been one reported rape (the perpetrator caught and convicted), and in the last year only one reported mugging on the town's 40km of cycleways.

We are concerned about the misrepresentation of the crime figures. Fear of crime remains a serious problem, and any misrepresentation of the facts exacerbates that fear and serves to imprison people in their own homes. We do not suggest Stevenage is free of crime; but violent street crime here is not significantly worse than elsewhere.

Chief Executive,
Stevenage Borough Council,
(Sup) Frank Clarke,
Hertfordshire Constabulary,
Police Station, Lytton Way,
Stevenage, Herts SG1 1HF.



Old problem, new solution

WRITE with reference to the letter (October 16) about Hillingdon Hospital's attitude to the over-75s. As a 67-year-old grandfather, I hold in the deepest respect those who fought in war and gave the freedom to express my opinions to the Guardian.

However, I also have every sympathy with the young people who will, I am sure, resent the obscene sums of money that will be needed for the increasing number of old people when there are far more pressing calls on the public purse. The old are lucky to have lived this long and we shouldn't be allowed to consume resources which would be better devoted to the welfare of children, education, the arts and the NHS.

As to introducing the concept that some lives are of less value than others, mine is certainly of less value than that of, say, Harold Pinter or Tar Kovsky — but that, of course, is nothing to do with age.

F Ryfield,
Clay Street,
Histon, Cambridge CB4.

Foreign news

I WOULD like to correct your statement (Trapped in a bloody triangle of terror, October 21): "They (Banyamulenge) retaliated apparently encouraged by the Rwandan government which is keen to strike against extremist Hutu militias sheltering in the camps." The situation in eastern Zaire started long before the Rwandan genocide. Afterwards, the Interahamwe militias and former Rwandan government army continued their persecution of the Zairian Tutsis in North Kivu with the support of Zairian forces. The current crisis in South Kivu is a continuation.

Banyamulenge don't need to be encouraged. They are threatened. The Rwandan government has nothing to do with Zairian domestic problems in Uvira which is hundreds of miles away. The Rwandan government does not benefit from instability in eastern Zaire and has no room for unnecessary problems.

(Dr) Z Nsanzu,
Rwandan Ambassador,
Embassy of Rwanda,
58-59 Trafalgar Square,
London WC2N 6DX.

Just say yes

IT SEEMS to me that the Referendum Party has come as a Godsend to your contributors (Letters, October 21). It enables them to hide their own unwillingness to submit a decision as momentous as that on European Monetary Union to the words of the people on the basis that Sir James Goldsmith's party lacks electoral credibility.

Had the leaders of the main parties been a little more decisive on the question whether or not to hold a referendum, I suspect that the Referendum Party would never have had any reason to exist.

Sir James's party has therefore already served a useful purpose, even though his chances of election are minimal.

Walter Cairns,
Broomhurst Hall,
836 Wilmshurst Road,
Manchester M20 8RP.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed address, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

A Country Diary

THE WREKIN: The place where the Lyde Brook drops into the Loamhole (pronounced Lum'ole) Dingle is one of those gems in the landscape that remain largely a secret. Below the concrete fly-over — whose blank grey walls loom like some evil fortress above the trees and unseen by the traffic it carries — there is magic here. Under a grove of yew trees, the brook plunges into a little sandstone chasm. The wet rocks are covered with luxuriant gardens of fern fronds, mosses and liverworts. The canopy of oak, ash and lime almost close above the cliffs in an autumnal solitude. In the grey sliding drizzle this place is a world wrapped within a world, like a bulb buried deep in the earth. At its heart is a series of little waterfalls. Wild with fresh rain, the song of the brook surges above the drone of traffic, the spattering of rain on leaves and even the old football rattle screech of the jay, until its constant, but uncatchable sound fills the rocky mouth of the dangle.

Water pours over stone slabs making bass drones on the deeper falls, bubbles and smashes over rocks in broken melodies of savage exuberance. A small-leaved lime with five trunks has fallen across the fall to make a bower and carpeted the banks with bright ochre, heart-shaped leaves. The broader slabs which spread the flow are coated with a peachy-coloured clay from open cast coal workings further upstream. Below the waterfalls the brook curls through woods down the Lum'ole and into a pool colonised by sedges, reedmace and willow. From the lip of this pool, under the old brick viaduct, the brook plunges through the iron rails of a rusted sluice and, with a roar, vanishes into the darkness of a tunnel. It was here, in Coalbrookdale, that the brook powered the first furnace of the Industrial Revolution. The furnace is now a museum, but the Loamhole Brook is as wild and free as ever.

PAUL EVANS

Diary
Matthew Norman

WITH the new crime Bill published on Friday, complete with its American-style mandatory sentences, my sniffy friend Michael Howard will reinforce the time-honoured truth that "crime doesn't pay". Indeed it does not, as some of the guests were overheard agreeing at the Café Royal on Monday night, when scores of our most successful criminals...

THE gratification of Winnie Jones continues. He appears in Country Living's "my country childhood" column, and seldom since Arthur Ransome has anyone caught the splendour of bucolic life so effortlessly as Mr Jones, a pike fisherman, ferret trapper and pigeon shooter of some finesse. "The country gets deep in you," muses Winnie, who admits to missing George Orwell on the grounds that "I knew there'd be too many rooks to see to at that time."

IN one of those little exchanges that enliven rock music and sell records, Courtney Love has taken to the tabloids to declare war on Oasis. Company magazine reports that, among her computerised messages to other American users, are the messages "Oasis must die" and "Don't buy Oasis records. They have come to rape and pillage our women." These pronouncements are certain to cause Liam Gallagher to rethink his description of Americans as "silly f----- Yanks". Miss Love has been respected as an important thinker ever since winning the post of Amanda de Cadent's best friend.

LETTERS of support flooded into the campaign to get Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen back on telly. One correspondent, among too many to count, is FV Hoy of the Kenny Ball Appreciation Society, who encloses the official magazine. (AC Withall of Sheffield asks what became of Kenny's old jazz buddy Acker Bilk. Well, Mr Withall, only last month Acker and Kenny shared a gig in the Midlands, so there you are.) In truth, TV executives have yet to ring Kenny's manager's phone off his cradle; but they can't resist this pressure for long.

SAMR, however, on John Dean for threatening to cancel his Guardian subscription if the campaign succeeds. SHIL, it is a sad fact that people do stop taking newspapers, and to prove the point a missive, addressed to the "Express on Sunday", as it is now known, has reached the Diary. "I have today cancelled my order, after over 30 years, for your puerile imitation of a crusading newspaper," writes Thomas F Holmes, Deputy Chairman of the National Front. Mr Holmes is disgraced by the lack of anti-racist sentiment in the paper. Ah well, you can't please all of the people all of the time.

MISS Esther Rantzen, the woman whom some believe simply cares too much, celebrates 10 years of Childline next week. In Colorado, however, wronged offspring take matters into their own hands. Loaded magazine reports that one 15-year-old boy, in the town of Lafayette, wanted to have his ears pierced. When his parents refused to allow it, the little darling did the sensible thing, and reported them to the local police for possessing eight pounds of marijuana.



A miracle lights up the classroom

Commentary
Catherine Bennett

A MIRACLE has come to pass. A substantial miracle — a miracle even in these halcyon days when politicians pretend to pray, yet are neither punished with a botch, nor rooted out of their land in anger and in wrath. Teachers, who have long been considered by every right-thinking person to be realist, guising and moral outlaws, or — at best — a rabble of whiny Trots, have, all at once, been transformed into the saviours of the nation. Or, as they might be introduced in one of our forthcoming "civics" classes: schoolteachers used to be Wrong, now they are Right.

In an immediate response to Frances Lawrence's manifesto, Gillian Shepherd has said she may expedite the introduction in schools of a draft moral code, recently devised by a "Forum" of premier values-experts. Not to be outdone, David Blunkett has promised that, under Labour, classes in citizenship would

somehow be squeezed into the curriculum. For those who have been listening attentively to Nicholas Tate, the Christian and chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, this development is worthy, if not plain Wrong. Earlier this year, Mr Tate protested against an "all-pervasive relativism among schoolteachers, in our desire to respect the views of others and expiate past faults... we appear to have over-reacted", he said, adding that the milk-sops paid too much attention to self-esteem, and not enough to traditional values.

Wronger still, according to George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was the fact that 80 per cent of schools were neglecting to perform the daily act of collective worship. Deploiring "moral relativism", Carey demanded that schools be free to conform with the law, thereby creating adults more like George Carey, with a clear sense of rules and their origin: "Rules which make life worthwhile and keep relationships faithful and true are inextricably linked to the deepest things we believe about God... The difficulty, of course, is that some people simply refuse to align their deepest things with George Carey's. As Nicholas Tate's National Forum for Values in Education and the Community has discovered, in its struggle to

draw up a firm yet innocuous list of precepts, even the assertion of traditional secular values is likely to offend many parents. So is their absence. Last month Christian and family pressure groups objected that the Forum's draft code had omitted to mention that a proper family constituted the marriage of two previously chaste heterosexuals, followed by faithful, life-long partnership.

Each diluted since its first, fiery announcement, the Forum's draft code is now a modest project, divided under four headings: the self, relationships, society and the environment. The ethics involved are not to be hastily laid down, so much as pursued through "guided debate" — which means that pupils will presumably be influenced by the values or emotions of the relevant debate-guide, varying in tone according to whether the pedagogue is a virtuous celibate, hardy adulterer or fan of the X-files. Or is the teacher meant to avoid the trap of relativism by selecting instructive models from our betters?

In discussing relationships, for example, should the civics teacher refer pupils to respected politicians, such as Steven "shagger" Norris, or call attention to that brilliant and compelling churchman, George Carey, or study the lifestyle of the future Defender of the Faith, Prince

Charles? By happy coincidence, Carey's moral decline occurred at the time of the latest divorce. John Humphrys asked him if there couldn't be a connection. "I want to say that the Royal Family have my total support," Carey said. "The two things must not be seen as tied together in any sense..." Well, wasn't adultery wrong, Humphrys persisted? Dr Carey: "I don't really want to get into it." On physical violence, however, matters are more complex. Do we tell children to submit to the child-whacking supporters of Tony Blair, or entreat them to ring Childline? On gambling, does the teacher guide the debate towards the perils of sinister, glittering arcades — or move straight to the fun of a flutter on the National Lottery? And if as seems likely, the curriculum features personal responsibility, the Forum is simply asking for trouble. Where

Should the civics teacher refer pupils to respected politicians such as Steven 'shagger' Norris?

does Nicholas Tate stand on the Scot Report? Whatever the other social consequences of moral instruction in schools, it seems likely that it will lead to more parents choosing the independent sector, where literacy and numeracy come before compulsory piety, parentcraft and community service. As teachers have repeatedly exhorted, civics instruction is futile if a child's parents are contemptuous of civic behaviour. For most children, with

responsible parents, it is equally redundant. Besides, teachers are already engaged, fully, in instilling values. They must keep order, enforce discipline, recite the merits of do-as-you-would-be-done-by. As Brian Garvey said yesterday, of the Ridings school in Halifax, most children respond to such injunctions; the troublesome minority is incorrigible. British teachers have become accustomed to blame, but even they must shoulder the consequences, when, in a few years time, children continue to offend, despite all their lessons in values, and the tempting prospect of Mr Howard's "good citizenship award". Who, if not teachers, will be the culprits? They must know that they have not been appointed for this great crusade out of Mrs Shepherd's affection, or because Tony Blair wants them for a sunbeam. It's just that, in Britain's great hierarchy of caning misbehaves, they have the misfortune to be at the bottom. Teachers have done nothing to deserve the honour, they are simply where the back stops.

Other than advertising where some are permitted an influence denied to these less fortunate, democracy is frustrated, just as it is by denying the right to vote. On that test alone, the issues raised by the Neil Hamilton case constitute far more than a mere local difficulty. The practice called into question are part of an ethos which proclaims its allegiance to genuine democracy but in practice sells it short. Though less often commemorated than the four Reform Bills which finally extended the vote to all adults, the legislation enacted from the 1860s onwards to clean up British elections was scarcely less crucial. As Cornelius O'Leary demonstrates in his book *The Elimination of Corrupt Practices in British Elections 1868-1911* — a much jollier read, incidentally, than the title suggests — general and shameless bribery flourished all over the place. At Beverley, a notorious den of iniquity, a Royal Commission inquiring into the 1868 campaign found that one-third of the voters were known as "rolling stock" — that is, they would roll to the side that offered the biggest bribe. At Bridgewater, the commissioners judged that in every election since 1832 at least 75 per cent of the voters were "hopelessly addicted" to bribery. The practice of "treating" made thousands of beneficiaries as drunken as they were veal. Undue influence, lay and spiritual, was brutally exercised. There was also something known as "colourable employment", as practised in the disgraceful city of Norwich, where in 1874 the Tories invited jobs for over 2,000 "messengers", while the Liberals hired almost 3,000. The responsibility for policing all this multitude of malpractice fell to Parliament, which had taken the right from the judges in 1604. But quite apart from the pull of their party loyalties, MPs lacked the expertise to handle such things. At Totnes they ousted an MP called Pender on a single charge which a royal commission found later was the only charge of which he was innocent. And even where they tried to enforce the appropriate penalties, they were often balked by

Something is still rotten in the state



David McKie

DEMOCRATIC theory requires that the House of Commons represents us all equally. Every adult citizen should deploy an equal vote. But where votes or voices are bought, or where some are permitted an influence denied to these less fortunate, democracy is frustrated, just as it is by denying the right to vote. On that test alone, the issues raised by the Neil Hamilton case constitute far more than a mere local difficulty. The practice called into question are part of an ethos which proclaims its allegiance to genuine democracy but in practice sells it short. Though less often commemorated than the four Reform Bills which finally extended the vote to all adults, the legislation enacted from the 1860s onwards to clean up British elections was scarcely less crucial. As Cornelius O'Leary demonstrates in his book *The Elimination of Corrupt Practices in British Elections 1868-1911* — a much jollier read, incidentally, than the title suggests — general and shameless bribery flourished all over the place. At Beverley, a notorious den of iniquity, a Royal Commission inquiring into the 1868 campaign found that one-third of the voters were known as "rolling stock" — that is, they would roll to the side that offered the biggest bribe. At Bridgewater, the commissioners judged that in every election since 1832 at least 75 per cent of the voters were "hopelessly addicted" to bribery. The practice of "treating" made thousands of beneficiaries as drunken as they were veal. Undue influence, lay and spiritual, was brutally exercised. There was also something known as "colourable employment", as practised in the disgraceful city of Norwich, where in 1874 the Tories invited jobs for over 2,000 "messengers", while the Liberals hired almost 3,000. The responsibility for policing all this multitude of malpractice fell to Parliament, which had taken the right from the judges in 1604. But quite apart from the pull of their party loyalties, MPs lacked the expertise to handle such things. At Totnes they ousted an MP called Pender on a single charge which a royal commission found later was the only charge of which he was innocent. And even where they tried to enforce the appropriate penalties, they were often balked by

the Lords. And yet by the end of the century elections were largely clean. The process began with an honest recognition of what lay within the power of the House to correct, and what did not. It could break the hold of corruption by abandoning complaisant custom and practice in favour of fresh legislation: as it did by making the ballot secret and by putting tight limits on constituency spending, to curb the freedom of these with the fattest moneybags to buy the results they wanted. (The former Conservative principal agent, JE Corst, forecast that national spending would one day grow to a point where that too would have to be curbed — a truth which today's Tory party still won't acknowledge.) But, every bit as crucially, the Commons decided to pass back to the judges the job of investigating it had done so inadequately. Self-regulation, it frankly admitted, was not enough. If that all seems obviously necessary now, it certainly didn't then. Palmerston, if I remember, called secret balloting "skulking and un-British". Disraeli and even Gladstone took their time to come round to it. And there were always throughout the debates, as in debates on the reforming Parliament now, backbench stalwarts who knew in their bones that reform was not going to work, especially if you tried to involve outsiders unskooled in the ways of Westminster. Outside interference in Parliament's doings, these Members complained — much as their distant successors have in the context of Nolan — was a trespass into its sovereignty. And in any case, some of them argued, the whole exercise was fatally misconceived. You needed some lubrication to make an election work.

IN a novel by Thomas Love Peacock called *The Misfortunes of Elphin*, published three years before the first Great Reform Bill, there's a character called Seithenyyn ap Seithin. He's responsible for maintaining the high embankments which guard the Kingdom of Gwaelor against flood. But, unappreciated, he is far more interested in wining and wassailing. Others may warn of dangerous decay and invited jobs for over 2,000 "messengers", while the Liberals hired almost 3,000. The responsibility for policing all this multitude of malpractice fell to Parliament, which had taken the right from the judges in 1604. But quite apart from the pull of their party loyalties, MPs lacked the expertise to handle such things. At Totnes they ousted an MP called Pender on a single charge which a royal commission found later was the only charge of which he was innocent. And even where they tried to enforce the appropriate penalties, they were often balked by

Gone fishing for votes - hope to be back 1997

Ewen MacAskill argues that the Queen's Speech today will be aimed at smoking out Labour before the election. Plans for serious legislation will be dropped

THE QUEEN will confirm this morning that, to all intents and purposes, government in Britain has ceased, at least until the election. She will go through the tradition of formally presenting from her throne in the Lords a programme for government. But this year's Queen's Speech is not about good government; it is about the coming months of election campaigning. It is the 18th Queen's Speech since the Conservatives came to power, and even more than last year, it shows the extent to which they are tired of government. It is a mixture of the now almost annual education and crime bills and an odd assortment of measures, such as diverting some of the Lottery funds to the maintenance of stately homes. With the exception of the proposed legislation on banning handguns, the Government has not chosen bills

aimed at producing good government but to smoke out Labour. The tactics are to try to get Labour to vote against tougher sentencing policy or a crackdown on benefits fraud, and then use this in the election campaign. And if the Labour front-bench will not fall into the trap, the next best thing is to get some of the Labour MPs to vote against the Government. It promises to be a long, wasteful session, for MPs as well as journalists, but rest assured for the election campaign proper to begin. Just over a dozen bills are planned. The Government is keeping the Queen's Speech thin to avoid controversies that will lead to battles with its own back-benchers, and to leave open the option of calling a snap election. To pare down the Queen's Speech, measures paraded at the Conservative conference only two weeks ago have been dropped: a proposed national register of paedophiles, an insurance scheme that would



allow the elderly and infirm to retain their homes, and the introduction of identity cards. So slight is this Queen's Speech that it was only over the weekend that a unifying theme emerged: the Prime Minister will claim today that many of the measures are in line with the manifesto

set out by the widow of the murdered headteacher, Philip Lawrence. What alternatives are there to the next year's Zaire election? A fixed-term Parliament would not help. The final year of a four-year Parliament would see the ruling party of the day engaging in similar populist measures

Aid has poured in to support the Hutu refugees, but Chris McGreal writes that the 'victims' are the villains

Export of terror from Zaire

ONCE again the sight of Hutu refugees forlornly tramping from conflict in central Africa is tugging at the world's heartstrings. It is a spectacle which has popped up periodically since the great exodus from Rwanda two-and-a-half years ago. And the United Nations is once again there to ensure that it can generate publicity — therefore money — from a seemingly endless tragedy. But to focus on the plight of the refugees is to hijack the real tragedy now taking place in central Africa. Refugees from Burundi deserve more sympathy given the continuing conflict there. But Rwanda's exiled Hutus are not respectable victims of war. They are the ones perpetuating the conflict. And much of the world — through the UN — has helped them do it. The fighting now spreading across eastern Zaire is a direct result of the international community's strange perception that the desire of Rwandan Hutu refugees to remain refugees

is of overriding importance. It began with the 1994 exodus from Rwanda, as Hutus bolted from the consequences of the murders of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis. Two million people fleeing their country could not be ignored, and the generous international response was right if made for the wrong reason. Governments poured in

throw £1 million a day into the black hole of the camps so that they can claim to help central Africa, while turning their backs on the difficult choices required to find a solution. The camps are by no means full of guilty people, and conditions in Rwanda are not ideal for returning Hutus. There are reprisal killings, sometimes by the mainly Tutsi army. But that is, in

— the real victims of the killing in eastern Zaire are the hundreds of thousands of Tutsis who have lived there for generations but now find themselves facing murder or expulsion. The UN says that it cannot help them, because the victims are being killed inside their own country — even if that country has disowned them. The spread of fighting into Zaire has been on the cards for months. The Hutu militias, when not raiding Rwanda, consorted with Zairean soldiers and civil-

government, to sit across its border with Mexico. And the US invaded Panama and Grenada on far more spurious threats to its security. The West keeps talking about closing the camps. Washington describing them as centres of terrorism — says they should be shut. Two weeks ago, a UN conference said the same thing, for the sixth time in two years. Even Zaire's prime minister says the camps must close. And yet, even allowing for the trickle of refugees going home, the numbers in the camps expand with every birth. What little attention has been paid to finding a lasting solution in central Africa is suspect or shunned. The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, popped up in the region a fortnight ago pushing a plan for a Western-funded, African-manned peace-keeping force. European support is crucial. If got buried in a spat between the French and Mr Christopher over who has the right to exercise what influence in Africa. But if anyone doubts the West's seriousness, it can always point to the great help given to the Hutu refugees.

Ordinary people gave because of the tragic television pictures, amid confusion about whom they were looking at aid to assuage consciences for turning their backs on the genocide of Tutsis. Ordinary people in the West, watching the tragic television pictures, amid some confusion about whom they were looking at. After visiting the refugees, Tipper Gore, the wife of the US Vice-President, described her grief at meeting the survivors of the genocide. Others were similarly confused, and the idea of the Hutu refugees as the principal victims stuck. Britain and its allies

part, a result of the continuing cross-border raids into Rwanda from the camps, in order to kill, maim and keep the divisions wide. As others have pointed out, the West kept the Khmer Rouge alive in the Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand. Now we are sustaining the genocidal dogma in the Rwandan camps in Zaire and Tanzania. While the UN appeals to "all sides to avoid a humanitarian disaster" — referring to Hutu refugees

ians to destroy the country's Tutsis — the Banyarwanda and the Banyarwanda. Rwanda denies any hand in helping them fight back, but support for Zairean Tutsis is an effective way to carry the war into the exiled camp. Under the circumstances, it will be hard for anyone in the West to say that Rwanda is wrong. Washington certainly would not permit similar armed camps of fanatics, intent on overthrowing the

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Vernon Elliott

Reed round the world

ALTHOUGH the musical reputation of Vernon Elliott, who has died aged 84, was based on his career as an orchestral musician, he also became known to millions of children as the composer of the music for television cartoon classics such as *Ivor the Engine*, *Noggin the Nog*, *Pogles' Wood* and *The Changers*. His inspired compositions came about through a chance meeting with the cartoon-maker Oliver Postgate, who wanted a bassoon tune to represent his new character Ivor, a small Welsh railway engine. Though initially diffident, Vernon wrote it to Postgate's delight — and so began a fruitful collaboration.

Vernon Elliott was born in Croydon, south London, where his father, a schoolmaster, played the bassoon in a semi-professional capacity. Under his tuition, the son won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, where he won the Edwin James Woodwind prize. On leaving in 1937, he was appointed principal bassoonist with the Bournemouth Orchestra.

Benjamin Britten, renowned for his tough hire-and-fire policy, kept Vernon on at Aldeburgh

In 1938 he married Nora Mulkle, a notable double-bass player, whose father (always known as Pa Mulkle) was a friend of Gustav Holst, Nora's godfather. Pa was an organ builder and a part-time inventor, who admired Vernon's business sense, something which he himself perhaps lacked. Pa once helped Vernon adapt a rickety printing press with which they believed they were going to make a fortune, and Vernon's pupils (of which I was one) were recruited to help operate it. In the same year, Vernon was appointed as first bas-

soonist with Sadler's Wells Opera — the predecessor of the English National Opera. On the outbreak of the second world war, Vernon was drafted into the Irish Guards band along with many distinguished contemporaries. The band combined performances in concert halls, theatres and film studios with their military duties, and Vernon once played with his father in the film *Dangerous Moonlight* (1941), in which Anton Walbrook "played" the *Warsaw Concerto*.

After military service in Italy (where he once found himself behind enemy lines), he returned to Sadler's Wells where he and Nora played in the premiere of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* in 1945. At this time the impresario Walter Legge was trying to attract the cream of London musicians to his Philharmonia Orchestra, and he wanted Vernon for the bassoon section. He was contracted to play principal, second and contra-bassoon as required, and so Vernon had somehow to acquire a bass instrument.

With typical Elliott luck he found a Heckel contra (an old Rolls-Royce of an instrument) in a pawnbroker's shop, which he bought for £25. On this he was to record the contra example for Sir Malcolm Sargent's *Instruments of the Orchestra* record with Sargent playing the piano. In 1949 he joined the Royal Opera House Orchestra at Covent Garden, since playing at the Coronation in 1953. Britten invited Vernon to join the English Opera Group and to take part in the first performance of *The Turn of the Screw* at the Venice Festival in 1954, later recorded by Decca.

Britten, renowned for his tough hire-and-fire policy, admired Vernon's playing and kept him in the Aldeburgh Festival Orchestra for many years, even though he had by now rejoined the Philharmonia. This was in time to take part in their famous tour of the United States under Herbert von Karajan. Vernon described with relish a confrontation on the tour between a violinist, who had been a Spitfire pilot, and the conductor, who still represented the enemy to the young pilot musician.



Pied piper... Vernon Elliott with children at his old primary school in Croydon

Val Wimmer writes: Vernon Elliott, who had some dance band experience, almost played bass with the first established black British band. On a 1938 visit to the Shim-Sham, Jack Isow's black club in Wardour Street, he danced with the daughters of Billy Cotton's African-American trombonist Ellis Jackson and sat in with the spectacular pianist Garland Wilson. He was offered a job by fledgling bandleader Ken "Snakehips" Johnson, who

was between bass players. Although tempted, he decided to pursue more formal studies, but always retained the accolade. When he told me the story for my forthcoming history of Johnson's orchestra, I mentioned that the former Henry Cow redwomans and composer Lindsey Cooper, a friend. He telephoned her immediately and it transpired that her bassoon teacher, Edgar Williams, was one of his pupils. Thus were

we invited to visit Vernon and Nora Mulkle. There were many formidable women musicians in Nora's family and it was instructive to sit with her and Lindsay, a co-founder of the latter-day FIG (Feminist Improvising Group) while Vernon entertained us with his memories of busking in Soho. Vernon Elliott, musician and composer, born July 27, 1912; died October 12, 1996

Martyn Taylor

An educator against Aids

JAZZ, literature, Labour Party history and what the Terrence Higgins Trust should be doing next were issues guaranteed to elicit an entertaining response from Martyn Taylor, who has died aged 57.

Shortly after being diagnosed with HIV in 1986 Martyn retired from teaching. He moved to London, partly to ensure the best possible medical care but also to be centrally involved in the community response to Aids. In the mid-1980s, HIV was surrounded by fear and prejudice. Martyn immediately joined the Terrence Higgins Trust, determined to roll back the ignorance and indifference which was blighting the lives of so many people with Aids and their families.

He became a talented health educator, knowing that people with Aids should have a central role in stopping the spread of HIV. It is hard to overestimate his impact at the trust. He was a member of the board for six years and its chair for three, leading the trust through difficult times.

Martyn was born in Derbyshire, trained as a teacher in West Essex and taught in several schools before becoming a headmaster in Royston, Hertfordshire, and then in Exeter. He loved teaching and created a vibrant and challenging atmosphere. He was always energetic and involved, determined to get the most out of all those who worked with him and out of the children he worked for.

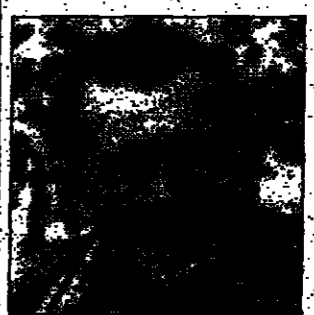
He managed to combine being stimulating and argumentative with great humour and laughter. He had a gift for impersonation and improvisation. These were gifts which were often wielded in

the old Labour Party, and even his political opponents will remember him with pleasure. Arguments were to be enjoyed and not necessarily to be won.

His clear, honest and constantly-developing sense of what it means to live with Aids was enormously important to all those who read his column in the trust newsletter or heard him speak at training events, party political conferences and on radio and television. As a teacher he had seen his role as giving young people the best chance to be able to determine their own future and make a difference in an unequal and often unfair world. He brought the same approach to developing our response to Aids.

In West Bromwich, Martyn had attempted to find a parliamentary seat, and was only frustrated by an ingrate Labour Party selection meeting. He would have made a fine MP, but Parliament's loss was the trust's gain. He leaves his partner of nine years — Tony Deane.

Mick Partridge
Martyn Taylor, teacher and campaigner, born December 3, 1938; died October 6, 1996



Taylor... vibrant energy

Aubrey Brabazon

The flying Irishman

AUBREY Brabazon, who has died aged 76, was one of Ireland's greatest jockeys. He was outstanding on the flat as well as over jumps and will be remembered for his tremendous hat-trick on Cottage Rake in the Cheltenham Gold Cup (1948 to 1950). After winning jumping's Blue Riband for the third time, the Brab, as he was affectionately known, went on to win the 1950 Irish 2,000 Guineas on Mighty Ocean, two years after winning the Irish Oaks on the Aga Khan's Masaka.

He claimed that he never had to hit Cottage Rake with the whip. In 1949 and 1950 he also won the Champion Hurdle for Vincent O'Brien on Hatton's Grace. He was one of only six men to have won the premier Cheltenham events in the same season.

His remarkable riding career in Ireland started with the first of 406 wins in his homeland, his last being on Chi-Chi-Castanaga at Thurles in 1959. His last win was on Flame Gun over the hurdles at Stratford in March 1960.

The following year he took up training and, though he never reached the dizzy heights of his riding career, he sent out winners of the Ulster Derby, Ulster National and the Hennessy Handicap. O'Brien, who trained Cottage Rake, said: "In my time Aubrey was one of the finest jockeys, both on the flat and over jumps. I owe some of my greatest successes to him."

"He was a very polished rider and, when it came to riding a finish, he had no peer. His achievements will go down in racing history and he will always be remembered by those who saw him ride."

Brabazon's old rival Martin Molony paid tribute, saying: "Aubrey was one of nature's gentlemen and that's the greatest compliment I can pay anyone."

He leaves a wife, four sons, and three daughters.

Ken Oliver
Aubrey Brabazon, jockey and trainer, born January 30, 1920; died September 30, 1996



Hat-trick... 'The Brab' on Cottage Rake clears the last fence in the 1948 Cheltenham Gold Cup, his first of three wins

Letters: Tony Parker

Anthony Shell writes: The oral historian Tony Parker (obituary, October 5) stayed up all night in anger and frustration at the execution of Timothy Evans. His remarkable wife, Marjorie, said: "Well, why don't you do something about it?" Tony did: he set about writing his first book, *The Courage of His Convictions*.

His first half dozen books were all about the identity we all have with what is now referred to as "the excluded"; the pariahs with whom we have difficulty in sympathising. In the romantic political fervour of the late 1960s, I remember thinking that Tony was all very well, but not in the forefront of political activism. He soon changed my view; he was a one-man political party fighting with enormous passion.

He once described to me leaving a south London down-and-out hostel and being approached by a man who said: "Do you think there might be another piece of bread?" In his downbeat Mancunian way, he manifested his fury at this level of need in an affluent society.

Although he was, his humour and irony were all-pervading. The BBC must now show *Five Women*, described by the Observer as "the first masterpiece for television," in its original form as a tribute to a great man.

Roy Battersby writes: Whenever Tony Parker went he brought his healing discipline of listening to people, whether they were imprisoned in jails, barracks, mines, lighthouses, housing estates, or in their lives. The profundity and integrity of his witness produced work that illuminated every life he explored and the society in which it was lived.

Reading *The Courage of His Convictions* 30 years ago had a profound influence on my life. We made *Five Women* into a film for the BBC-TV *Wednesday Play* series in 1987 and I began a period of prison visiting under his influence.

He wrote the documentary *People Like Us* on the two polar approaches to psychiatry. I directed some of his compassionate television series *Couples on Counselling*, and we tried to make films from his work on sex offenders and from *The People of Providence*.

Tony was a poet; his books have the pulse of poetic insight and passion. The BBC must now show *Five Women*, described by the Observer as "the first masterpiece for television," in its original form as a tribute to a great man.

Brother Eugene

Catholic values

IN 1955 a French Canadian, Brother Eugene, who has died aged 76, was one of four religious brothers who arrived at St Columba's College at St Albans following the school's takeover by the teaching order, the American Brothers of the Sacred Hearts. By 1960, his inspiration had increased the number of pupils from 76 to over 400 and he had created a school allying his native panache with English tradition.

Realising that team sports were *de rigueur*, he absorbed himself in rugby and cricket and built the largest sports hall in the county to house his beloved basketball, at which St Columba's became a national force. He was an argumentative supporter of Labour P.C.

Gerard Salois, as he was born, came from Rhode Island, where his Quebecois parents had sought work after the first world war. But his education and style were entirely French Canadian.

At St Columba's, discipline was firm but Eugene's friendliness pervaded the school and in 1966, he was summoned to head the ailing school of St Francis Malule, run by the Brothers in Zambia. By the time he returned to St Columba's in 1980, the African establishment was also thriving. He served as careers master at St Columba's until his retirement in 1992 and he remained a welcome and avuncular figure around what he always referred to as "the campus".

After a period of declining health, he returned to Quebec for a reunion of his year-group of novices. The symmetrical commitment was to Catholic education and its

values, but those of other faiths felt welcome and respected. Young men left St Columba's having learnt something of the meaning of life. St Albans follows the school's takeover by the teaching order, the American Brothers of the Sacred Hearts. By 1960, his inspiration had increased the number of pupils from 76 to over 400 and he had created a school allying his native panache with English tradition. Realising that team sports were *de rigueur*, he absorbed himself in rugby and cricket and built the largest sports hall in the county to house his beloved basketball, at which St Columba's became a national force. He was an argumentative supporter of Labour P.C.

Nicholas Fogg
Brother Eugene (Gerard Salois), teacher, born January 19, 1920; died September 15, 1996

Death Notices

COOPER, Ken died peacefully at home in Sheffield on October 20 aged 74 years. Beloved husband of Lyn, loving father of Paul and Mark. Buried at Hillsborough Road Crematorium, Sheffield on Friday October 25 at 1.30pm.

HILLARY, John (pseudonym), naturalist and author, died peacefully at home in London on October 20 aged 82 years. Beloved husband of Joan, loving father of three. Buried at St Paul's Church, London. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Susan Hillary, and a son, Mr. Peter Hillary. Donations to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2LS.

ROBERTSON, William (Bob) died on 20th October 1996, aged 77 years. Former Head of Pinner School, Gloucester St, Gloucester. Much loved and missed by all relatives, friends and neighbours. Funeral at 11.00am, Memorial Service later on 25th at 1.30pm. Burial at Pinner Cemetery. All donations to British Heart Foundation, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2LS.

WILLIAMS, Hugh, aged 87, in Charing Cross Hospital, London, on 20th October 1996. Beloved husband of Marion, loving father of three. Burial at Pinner Cemetery, Gloucester St, Gloucester. All donations to British Heart Foundation, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2LS.

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Jackdaw



Yuppy life
ARE YOU a yuppie? Do you have more dollars in your bank account than neurons in your brain? Then move into Chi Fu Fa Yuen, the apartment complex in Pokfulam, which is now perfectly geared up for people like you. The estate managers have just launched a wonderful new service called Home Repairs. All you do is phone the management office. An expert will rush up to your flat and do all those awkward little jobs that irritate the averagely incapable member of the yupwardly mobile classes. The letter announcing the service has a price list

attached. Change a normal light bulb: \$60.
Change a candle-shaped light bulb: \$60.
Replace a low-level fluorescent light: \$75.
Replace an incandescent strip light: \$230.
Replace a 50w/12v lamp bulb: \$100.
Replace rubber washer inside water tap: \$230.
Replace Sump, 13amp, or 15amp plug: \$60.

There's no service listed for yuppies who want help getting dressed or flushing the toilet, but no doubt an expert could be persuaded to dash to your abode and do the needful for a few hundred snackers.

Hourly rates
PAUL Ithaca, New York, prints his own money and he's willing to teach you how to do it, too. No, he isn't some militia member offering a counterfeiting course; he's an economist trying to keep national chains in his community. Glover's bills,

called Ithaca Hours, are a modern variation on bartering. Residents earn an Hour bill — worth \$10 — by producing a product or performing a service.

"It isn't funny money," Glover says. "It's money with a boundary around it — it must be spent back in the community."

It works like this: An Ithaca resident sells handmade jewellery for Hours and buys carpentry work, which the carpenter can use to pay his chiropactor, who uses the currency to buy a vase from a local potter.

New Mexico — are now making their dough after buying Glover's HomeTown Money Starter Kit and Video for \$40. Keeping it in the homebased. Reported in *George* magazine.

Tips on Q
Q-TIPS are "ideal for a multitude of uses." The box does not specify what those might be. As Paul points out, how can we "use only as directed" if we don't know what these multitudes of uses are.

As a substitute for swizzle sticks in your bar.
Excellent for cleaning out that pesky belly-button lint. From the Q-Tip homepage at www2.islandnet.com/~cwoalke

Blazing barrels
A PLUME of smoke and flame arose from the crowd at the bottom of one of Ottery St Mary's narrow streets. Nick, from the Science Museum Library, caught my eye.

"Remember this moment," he said, "this is your first sight of a barrel." The column of smoke began to move, parting the crowd like a comb through hair: until I saw a boy of about eight racing towards us holding a flaming wooden barrel on his shoulders. His face shone with concentration and Vaseline, he wore a knitted hat and his hands were encased in sackcloth oven gloves. Other children sped beside and behind him, darning the torrent of flame, ready to take the fiery cask from him the moment he faltered, and run with it in their turn. "Come on Daryl," roared his sup-

porters in the crowd. "Get on! Get on!" The faster they run, the faster it burns. Nick explained, "but the cooler they stay." "Go for it, Louise," came the cry. "Take it from Leanne." "But these are children," I exclaimed aghast, to my neighbour. "These are Ottery children." "Come the reply.

Tar rolling may date back to the ancient Celtic fire festival of Samhain; some suggest it was to fumigate the plague villages. But Devon's Otterians have been doing it for as long as anybody knows, and feeling as one roller put it, "at one with everyone who has done it before and everyone who will do it."

Blind ambition
IF I had to do it over, I wouldn't choose to be blind," says Peter Torpey, 44, a physicist at Xerox's Wilson Research Centre near Rochester, New York. "But I have a fun position at work and I'm adding value to the system." Xerox agrees. As the leader of the team responsible for improving colour images from ink-jet printers, he has won the company's prestigious President's Award for drastically reducing the time

required to produce new products. Estimated savings: \$1.5 million per project. Torpey's method — getting customers to address potential quality problems early in the design cycle — is now best practice at Xerox.

Torpey hasn't always been blind. Born with glaucoma, he nonetheless learned to read and perceive colour by holding a book inches from his eyes, allowing him to graduate with a BSc in physics in 1974. But after that his vision deteriorated, and today Torpey can only distinguish light from dark.

"It's interesting," he concedes, "to have a blind person in charge of making images look better. But I think it is an advantage."

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Emily Sheffield

Copper scan
A large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring various text and graphics, including the words "Copper scan" and "A large vertical advertisement".

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Merger of rival networks promises to slash phone charges and create revolution in on-line services

Notebook



Derek Burnley (left), chief executive of Bell Canada International, confirms the deal with Richard Brown (centre), chief executive of Cable and Wireless, and Fred Salerno of Nynex

C&W in £6bn plan to become leading player in UK cable

Patrick Donovan and Nicholas Bannister

CABLE & Wireless yesterday pledged to slash the cost of telephone charges and provide on-line viewers with everything from Internet access to latest release movies as it unveiled a £6 billion plan to merge with three rival cable television companies.

UK cable operators Videotron, Nynex CableComms and Bell Cablemedia. The resulting company, to be named Cable & Wireless Communications, represents a direct challenge to BT's supremacy as it will set up Britain's largest provider of telecommunications, information and entertainment services.

Terms of the deal, set up in just three weeks, involve Bell Cablemedia, the third biggest force in the UK cable industry, taking full control of rival Videotron. The takeover, which was disclosed in Saturday's Guardian is worth \$685 million.

The company said it remains to be seen how Cable & Wireless Communications, as the new venture will be called, will turn out in practice. It will also be some time before it is running at full capacity. The cable partners are not expected to complete wiring up their franchise areas until 1998.

Manchester and Leeds. He added: "CWC will be the only company in the UK capable of offering a combination of telephony, broadband, data transmission, video shopping and Internet access. This creates choice in the marketplace — the real winners are our customers."

Regulator says no to BskyB promotion
TELECOMS regulator Don Cruickshank last night cracked down on a BT promotion offering cheaper phone bills to members of its Friends & Family discount scheme who sign up with the satellite broadcaster BskyB.

At last, a viable challenge to BT's near-monopoly

New line-up should go further than Mercury, writes Nicholas Bannister

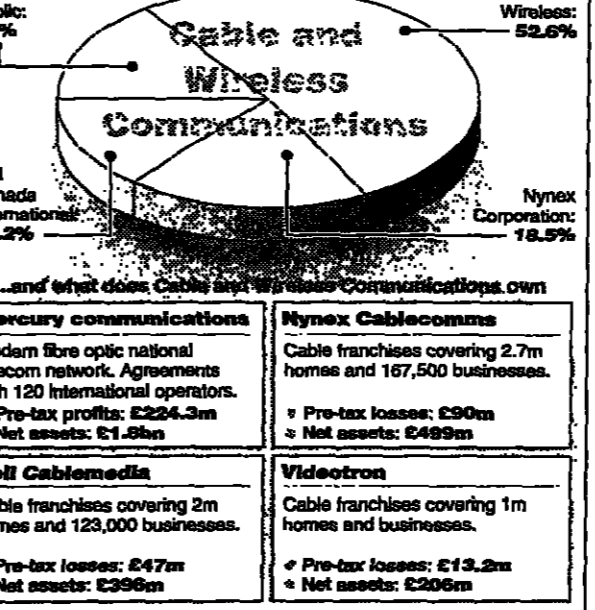
CABLE & Wireless has finally started to fulfil the role carved out for it by the Government 12 years ago — that of a viable competitor to British Telecom in the UK.

Mercury's all-digital national network is complete. The cable company networks are more than 50 per cent built and should be finished by 1998. Mercury itself has recently undergone a dramatic restructuring and is back on the profit growth path while City analysts believe that the large cable companies are heading for breakeven within the next couple of years.

Yesterday's deal values Bell Canada's Mercury stake at \$380 million and leaves the group with a 14.2 per cent holding in a new and more exciting business. British Telecom said any move which consolidated the market was welcome. A spokesman said: "We have about 150 licensed competitors. We have seen the arrival this year of AT&T as a big competitor. The joining together of Mercury and others creates a more defensible position."

The merged cable companies would concentrate on building up their market share in their key catchment areas of Greater London, Manchester and Leeds. He added: "CWC will be the only company in the UK capable of offering a combination of telephony, broadband, data transmission, video shopping and Internet access. This creates choice in the marketplace — the real winners are our customers."

Britain's new telecom players



Manufacturers take cue from rising sales

BUOYANT high-street confidence is spilling over on to the factory floor as a flood of new orders prompts firms to crank up production, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

Industrial sector. Treasury minister Angela Knight said: "Recent surveys show consumer confidence at its highest level since 1988. Today's CBI survey shows that confidence is now reaching parts of the economy not previously reached."

to October, against 21 per cent reporting a drop in output. The CBI said the 15 per cent gap between these figures was the strongest since last July. Firms also reported lower raw material prices, as global commodity costs dropped. This allowed manufacturers to widen their profit margins for the first time since the beginning of 1995.

Daimler power struggle defers restructuring plans

ABOROUGH power struggle yesterday frustrated the supervisory board of Germany's biggest industrial company, Daimler-Benz, to postpone until next year a radical restructuring planned for early November.

quarters of the group's turnover of Dm103.5 billion (\$42.2 billion). Mr Schrempp intends merging the three subsidiary firms — Mercedes, Daimler, the aerospace arm, and Debus, the financial services and IT division — with the parent holding company.

ment also means that a decision on the renewal of Mr Werner's contract as a member of the Daimler board, which expires at the end of next year, was put off. At Mercedes-Benz he can stay in office at least until 1999.

Formidable, but don't cheer yet



Mark Milner

CABLE & Wireless looked in a sad way just a few months ago. Its top management had been shaken by a long-running feud between its then chairman and chief executive, which culminated in the departure of both. A plan to merge with BT had collapsed, leaving an apparently gaping hole in its strategic thinking.

among some EU members, principally Germany and France, that if the banks of countries which have not signed up for EMU were allowed unrestricted access to Target, it could complicate the conduct of the single monetary policy.

Feeling good

JUST for a change, the Confederation of British Industry's report on the state of manufacturing industry makes cheery reading — not least for the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Output is at a 15-month high, stock levels show signs of starting to unwind, unit costs have fallen, spending on plant and machinery is tipped to rise, domestic demand is picking up and the rise in the pound — up 6 per cent on a trade-weighted basis since August — has not hit exporters, yet.

Off Target

THE conduct of monetary policy and the soundness of the financial system are seldom far from the thoughts of central bankers. But what happens if they appear to pull in opposite directions?

In the recent past, consumers have shown a marked tendency to shop around for the best buys, so there has been strong resistance to higher prices. With earnings picking up and, perhaps, a more generous "feelgood" factor emerging, they may be less inclined to hunt for bargains.

Consumers 'unsure of gas competition'

Celia Weston
Industrial Correspondent

MILLIONS of gas consumers need to be better informed about the choices they have and the implications of competition in the gas supply industry, the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

It said the task of fostering competition for domestic consumers was not the same as for industrial and commercial consumers who were used to making choices.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,285	France 7,970	Italy 2,289	Singapore 2,29
Austria 1,683	Germany 2,567	Malta 0,562	South Africa 7,96
Belgium 4,628	Greece 3,275	Netherlands 2,675	Spain 193,57
Canada 2,025	Hong Kong 12,00	New Zealand 2,175	Sweden 10,24
Cyprus 0,7175	India 55,51	Norway 10,08	Switzerland 1,94
Denmark 2,250	Ireland 0,8650	Portugal 228,40	Turkey 148,180
Finland 7,230	Israel 5,18	Saudi Arabia 5,93	USA 1,5500

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)



Yasuo Hamanaka, former chief copper trader for Sumitomo, being taken into custody yesterday in Tokyo on forgery charges

PHOTOGRAPH: SANKEI SHIMBUN

Rogue copper dealer held

Paul Murphy

SUMITOMO Corporation's former chief copper dealer, Yasuo Hamanaka, was arrested at his home in a Tokyo suburb yesterday, more than four months after being revealed as the man at the centre of the world's biggest financial markets scandal.

Sumitomo claims that unauthorised trading by Hamanaka over a ten-year period has cost it \$2.6 billion (£1.82 billion). The company said that it has begun court action, accus-

ing Hamanaka of forging documents. Officials from the Tokyo public prosecutor's office searched Hamanaka's suburban home yesterday. They took Hamanaka, who at the time of his downfall is believed to have controlled up to 20 per cent of the world's trade in copper, into custody.

Later, Sumitomo's managing director, Naoki Kuroda, said that the company was taking action in relation to forged signatures on two documents which were subsequently presented to Western metals broking firms transacting Sumitomo's copper business.

Merrill Lynch, the major US investment bank, and Credit Lyonnais Rouse, the commodities trading arm of France's state-owned Credit Lyonnais bank, have both stated over recent months that they believed Hamanaka's superiors had authorised the trader's business conducted through their firms.

Credit Lyonnais Rouse handled trades for Winchester Commodities, the metals brokerage based in the eponymous city — which, in turn, transacted a large portion of Hamanaka's metals trading. Along with other UK brokers, Winchester and its founders Charles Vincent and

Ashley Levett are being investigated by Britain's Serious Fraud Office. But Mr Kuroda said yesterday that Sumitomo had found no evidence that might lead to the company taking legal action against foreign metals brokers. He also stated that Hamanaka did not appear to have acted for personal gain.

Sumitomo fired Hamanaka on June 14 and began an internal investigation into his trading, triggering a sharp slump in the price of copper. The company first calculated the total losses at about \$1.8 billion, but last month the figure was revised upwards to \$2.6 billion.

Sumitomo's action followed a three-year enquiry by the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog. It also resulted in a wholesale review of the London Metal Exchange by the Securities and Investments Board, Britain's umbrella financial regulator, which is due to be completed by the end of the year.

Japanese lender goes bust with post-war record of £6 billion in losses

Financial Staff

AJAPANESE mortgage lender, Nichiei Finance, made history yesterday by becoming the country's biggest corporate bankrupt since the war with losses of 1 trillion yen (\$8 billion).

Nichiei is the latest victim of Japan's "bubble economy" of the late 1980s and its crisis-ridden property market, particularly its home-loan firms. It filed for liquidation two days after voters went reluctantly to the polls in the lowest turn-out at a general election since the war.

The firm's lawyers said the medium-sized lender had debts of 170.89 billion yen, it could not raise and borrowers owed it \$21 billion yen they probably could not repay. Of this around 100 billion yen is completely unrecoverable.

The collateral is land that has shed its value. The previous post-war record debt of \$90 billion yen was owed by Muramoto Construction Co., which sank in November 1993.

Nichiei's bankruptcy highlights Japan's painfully slow recovery from a five-year economic downturn as the country, once heralded as the world's most successful economy, struggles under bad debts of at least \$370 billion (\$246 billion), the bulk of it in bad housing and property loans. A new index yesterday showed the outlook for the next six months deteriorating.

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Asahi Bank and Bank of Yokohama — Nichiei's three leading creditors — have been easing, sometimes cancelling Nichiei's interest payments since 1993. They will take losses of over 100 billion yen.

Emap ends board row

Ian King

EMAP, the publishing company, denied yesterday that its board was on the point of ousting chairman Sir John Hoskyns.

The company, which was this summer embroiled in a row over controversial plans to change its articles of association, said there was no truth in suggestions that several directors were seeking to force Sir John's departure.

The row is said to have flared following the changes Emap made to its articles in July and a new rule that makes it possible for directors to be removed if three-quarters of the board approve.

The rule change was opposed by two of Emap's non-executive directors, Professor Ken Simmonds of the London Business School and Joe Cooke, former managing director of The Telegraph.

At the time, Sir John said Emap had been advised to make the rule change by its lawyers, but several Emap directors are now said to be concerned that the change was pushed through by Sir John, along with chief executive Robin Miller, to make it easier to remove troublesome directors.

Malaysian carmaker runs an eye over Group Lotus 'shop window'

Celia Weston

Celia Weston explains why a sports car went to Kuala Lumpur

to assess the Norfolk-based company's bona fides from the standpoint of a potential buyer.

Romano Artioli, the Italian entrepreneur who owns Group Lotus, insists he is looking only for a partner or co-investor, not a buyer. In August he categorically rejected Korean car company Daewoo as a potential \$50 million buyer after nearly a year of negotiations.

And last night Lotus would only confirm that it had sent the Elite to Malaysia, suggesting that it was a "shop window" for the innovative strengths of the engineering side of the business.

Nor would Proton add much detail. Mohamed Zainal, the UK operation's chief executive, said only that the company was "in the process of developing a technical collaboration with Lotus".

Loss-making Lotus, bought by Mr Artioli from General Motors in 1993, has been in turmoil for some time. Mr Artioli, who has been badly affected by the failure of his Bugatti car business, last year dismissed the Lotus managing director and finance director and in July this year fired the entire board.

Proton, however, is expanding aggressively and announced earlier this month it was talking to a number of potential foreign partners to supply technology for its new vehicle range.

It plans an \$800 million (£526 million) investment in a new car plant near Kuala Lumpur, which will eventually be capable of building 1 million vehicles a year, with the first cars due to roll off the production line in early 1999.

It remains to be seen whether the Malaysian company turns out to be an Aesopian victor.

BR's Eurotunnel victory

The European Court handed British Rail a victory yesterday, when it overturned a European commission decision on Eurotunnel's services made in 1994 that BR and its French partner, SNCF, had to offer 25 per cent of the channel tunnel's capacity to competitors. — Julie Wolf

Home loans boom forecast

HOME-LENDING will next year reach its highest level for five years, says Abbey National. It has revised expectations of mortgage business growth from 4 per cent to 5 per cent. — Teresa Hunter

SmithKline profits up 20pc

SMITHKLINE Beecham, Britain's second biggest drugs group, pleased the City yesterday with a better-than-expected 20 per cent jump in third quarter pre-tax profits.

SmithKline, which also makes consumer products like Lucozade and Horlicks, said higher sales, along with a boost from new products, had helped boost profits to \$274 million. SmithKline shares gained 3p to 798 1/2p on the figures.

Announcing the figures, chief executive Jan Leschly said the increase had been driven by higher volumes of products like Seratol, its anti-depressant, Havrix, its hepatitis A vaccine, and Augmentin, its general-purpose antibiotic product. — Ian King

BA sweetens airline offer

BRITISH Airways will invest more than \$50 million in Air Liberté if it succeeds in acquiring the French airline, BA chief Robert Ayling said yesterday.

The investment would come on top of the \$3 million BA has offered to purchase the assets of the troubled airline and would aim to protect most of the company's 1,300 jobs. BA's bid is being considered by the French authorities, which reportedly would prefer the airline to go to a French purchaser. Richard Branson's Virgin Group and a group headed by France's Nouvelles Frontières travel agency have also made bids. — Julie Wolf

Reckitt set to side-step buy-back tax

Ian King

RECKITT and Colman, the household and food products group, yesterday announced unique plans to bypass Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's recent closure of tax loopholes on special dividends and share buy-backs.

Reckitt, whose products include Barpac, Mr Sheen and Lemspic, is to pay a special dividend, buying back and cancelling about 5 per cent of its shares at the same time, at a total cost of £152 million.

However, because most of Reckitt's profits are made abroad, the pay-out is in the form of a foreign income dividend, based on revenue from sales outside the UK, and therefore not covered by the Chancellor's recent ruling.

Reckitt shares rose 2 1/4p to an all-time high of 734 1/2p on news of the bonanza.

Mr Clarke's announcement on October 8 restricted the payment of tax credits on dividends which accompany share buy-backs, to prevent funds from enjoying the benefits without paying tax on them. But because foreign income dividends do not qualify for tax credits, Reckitt will avoid the tax problems that have hit other companies trying to run share buy-backs.

Reckitt chief executive Vernon Sankey said the company had not been influenced by Mr Clarke's recent move and insisted it was simply part of a policy of returning cash to shareholders in as tax-efficient a manner as possible. He added: "We have had to make no alterations because this is in line with the Chancellor's indications. It doesn't use UK money, it uses money from outside the UK, and we received some pretty powerful advice on our tax position."

Mr Sankey admitted the pay-out suggested that Reckitt — which sold its famous Colman's mustard business when it spent \$1 billion (£845 million) on US household products group I & F two years ago — was not on the verge of any major new acquisitions. But, reiterating Reckitt's ambition to become the world's leading supplier of household products, he said the company could still revert to rights issues if needed to finance "a bligie", and would be content to concentrate on smaller acquisitions in countries where it was already active.

BP denies MEP's Colombia claims

Dan Atkinson

BP HAS hit back at allegations due to be aired in the European Parliament in Strasbourg tomorrow suggesting its Colombian operation is guilty of environmental vandalism and collusion with the security forces.

Howitt said he had eye-witness accounts of much of what was alleged.

Labour MEP Richard Howitt said he had bought himself a new car. Mr Kuroda said that aside from the forgery charges, Sumitomo is also planning to sue its former star trader for breach of trust "once we are prepared to do so."

At the heart of the dispute are two huge oil-fields operated by BP on behalf of a consortium, half of whose shares are held by the Colombian government. The Cusiana and Cupagua fields together produce 180,000 barrels a day, a figure that may rise to half a million barrels by the turn of the century. Both the fields and, more especially, the pipeline BP is building to the Caribbean coast present juicy targets for the ELN guerrilla forces.

However, Mr Howitt defended the report and added that he had done his own detective work in Colombia during a fact-finding visit last month.

The energy company has denied Mr Howitt's claims, which are based on a human rights report said to have been commissioned by President Ernesto Samper but never published.

BP sources said the report consisted largely of unchecked and unanalysed statements made to researchers who had asked loaded questions.

BP and partners Total of France and Triton of the US have paid to fund army protection from 150 officers and 500 men; BP's share of the bill will be \$8 million (\$5 million) over three years.

He said: "I will be presenting up-to-date evidence that confirms all the allegations in the report, including key admissions by BP officials." Mr

Howitt said he had eye-witness accounts of much of what was alleged.

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Mr Howitt is alleging BP's involvement with the security forces goes far beyond this special regiment, saying the company passed video tapes, photographs and intelligence reports about strikers and protesters to the army.

The MEP said the report also claimed BP's activities in the area have caused "grave damage to a protected forest and resulted in significant social disruption."

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Soccer

Blades set for takeover by Conrad

Ian King

CONRAD, the Manchester-based leisure group, is in talks to buy Sheffield United for about £10 million, and if the deal goes through as expected the Bramall Lane club will become the latest to pick up a stock-market listing.

English Coca-Cola Cup, third round

Blackburn Rovers 0, Stockport County 1

County set humble Rovers

BLACKBURN'S embarrassment is now all but complete after they were knocked out of the League Cup by the Second Division journeymen of Stockport County.

Forest chairman threatens to quit

NOTTINGHAM Forest's chairman Fred Reacher last night strongly suggested that he is ready to walk out on the troubled Premiership club.

Italy coach faces sack

GLENN HODDLE is likely to have to pit his wits against a new Italy coach in February's World Cup qualifier at Wembley, after reports that Arrigo Sacchi will be sacked next month.

Team talk

Table with 4 columns: Team, Goals, Assists, etc. Includes Arsenal, Aston Villa, Blackburn, Bolton, Brentford, Burnley, Chelsea, Coventry City, Derby County, Everton, Hull, Ipswich Town, Leeds United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottingham Forest, Oldham Athletic, Oxford United, Peterborough United, Reading, Southampton, Sheffield Wednesday, Sheffield United, Southend United, Stoke City, Sunderland, Tottenham Hotspur, Watford, West Ham, Wimbledon, Wolves, Yeovil, and others.



Tale of two cities... Leicester's Lennon (left), who later scored, battles in midfield with York's Randall at Bootham Crescent

York City 0, Leicester City 2

York fall as Lennon sings the Blues

Michael Walker

MANCHESTER United last season, and Everton in the previous round this time, but there was no hat-trick of Premiership scalps in this competition for York City last night. Neil Lennon's powerful strike on the hour was followed by a neat flick from Simon Grayson four minutes from time and thus a poor game was won by quick feet rather than imagination.

slightly more progressive style. A header from Heskey not long after the interval suggested they had found a theme they could cope with, but unsurprisingly that was interrupted by York's aggression and Leicester's inability to find a pass called dangerous.

Gillingham 2, Coventry City 2

Ratcliffe gives Gills a second chance

Paul Weaver

SIMON RATCLIFFE pounced for a fine 75th-minute equaliser for Gillingham after Coventry had opened up a 2-0 lead over the Second Division side at the Priestfield Stadium.

Two minutes later Telfer crossed from the left, Dublin might have put the match beyond reasonable doubt five minutes into the second half when, off balance, he sent a right-foot shot looping over the bar from Salako's cross.

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Scottish Coca-Cola Cup, semi-final

Dunfermline 1 Rangers 6

Danes strike at the double

Patrick Glenn

BRIAN LAUDRUP — and Dunfermline's hitherto buoyant fans — had no idea what he was starting when he kicked Rangers into life by opening the scoring at Parkhead last night.

Storm suffer stiff penalty

Ice Hockey

Penalties played a crucial part in the Berlin Capitals' 4-2 defeat of the Storm in the European League match in Manchester last night.

Boxing

Joe Calzaghe, the British super-middleweight champion from Newbridge, tripped in a hole on a training run and has called off tonight's title defence against Liverpool's Paul Wright in Halifax.

Cycling

Axel Merckx, the 24-year-old son of the Belgian legend Eddy, has signed a two-year contract with the Italian team Polti. He will earn about £130,000 a year, peanuts compared with the £6 million that Miguel Indurain is reported to have been offered by the Spanish ONCE team to ride in next year's Tour de France.

Skiing

Alberto Tomba, the Olympic and world Alpine champion, injured his left knee and right wrist yesterday while training in northern Italy.

Baseball

World Series Atlanta Braves 4, New York Yankees 0 (Braves lead series 2-0).

Results

ENGLISH COCA-COLA CUP Third round: Stockport (1) 0, Blackburn (0) 0, Bolton (2) 2, Gillingham (2) 2, Ipswich (1) 1, Luton (1) 1, Middlesbrough (1) 1, Millwall (1) 1, Norwich (1) 1, Peterborough (1) 1, Reading (1) 1, Southampton (1) 1, Sheffield Wednesday (1) 1, Sheffield United (1) 1, Southend (1) 1, Stoke City (1) 1, Sunderland (1) 1, Tottenham (1) 1, Watford (1) 1, West Ham (1) 1, Wimbledon (1) 1, Wolves (1) 1, Yeovil (1) 1.

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Advertisement for Hollister featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Hollister' and 'A'. Includes other text like 'The Guardian', 'Cricket', 'The A tour', 'Robert Armstrong', 'Lewis' Wales ho'.

